



Executive Office

• Page 3



MNBE receives multiple awards

• Page 15



Sports : Littlebear's play for Spaulpa is big

• Page 17



Native American art show to help organizations

• Page 20



# Muscogee Nation News

E-mail: [lucast@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:lucast@muscogeenation-nsn.gov)

[www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov)

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit # 14  
Okmulgee, OK  
74447

Volume 33, Issue 10

P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

October 2004, 20 Pages

## Chief Ellis accepts grant award from IHS for diabetes program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis recently accepted a competitive grant award from Dr. Charles Grim, Executive Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS). The grant offered by IHS uses funds set aside from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians to reduce risks for heart disease in the diabetes population.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation was awarded the maximum amount of \$404,000 a year for the next five years. "I'd like to thank Dr. Grim for the opportunity to participate in the mission of this grant," said Chief Ellis. "I'd also like to thank and recognize the work of the Health System, in particular the Diabetes Program staff for writing the grant application."



Pictured above, from left to right, are: Scott Robison, Charles Coleman, Johnnie Brausell, Chief Ellis, Dr. Grim, Victoria Lee, and Patricia Buckley.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation was one of seven tribes in Oklahoma to receive a grant. There were 136 applications and 66 grants awarded to tribes across the nation. According to Dr. Grim, Congress had requested that some of the funds from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians be set aside to identify interventions that would work in Indian Country to reduce the most frequent complication from diabetes and heart disease.

The major target of this grant will be people with diabetes who are willing to commit to five years of intensive management to reduce their risk of heart disease to normal levels. These risk factors include excess weight and high levels of cholesterol, blood pressure and blood sugar. A nurse case manager will work closely with 50 to 600 such individuals and their providers to identify successful interventions.

A less intensive component of the grant will provide community-based activities to increase awareness of the heart risks posed by diabetes and to increase physical activities and healthy eating practices. For more information, contact the Diabetes Prevention Program at (918) 756-3334.

## Tribal representatives and citizens attend grand opening of National Museum of the American Indian



National Council Representatives Jesse Kelley, far left, and Bill Jones, far right, along with Chief Ellis and his wife, middle, lead the proud contingency of Creek tribal representatives and citizens during the Procession on the National Mall starting at the Smithsonian Castle during the grand opening ceremonies.

photo by Ted Isham

A large group of tribal representatives and citizens attended the Grand Opening of the National Museum of the American Indian located on the National Mall between the Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum and the U.S. Capitol Building. Part of the grand opening festivities was the Native Nations Procession. Thousands of people, many in Native dress and regalia, walked in unison to the stage of the Grand Opening ceremony. The procession provided an enduring symbol for the dawning of a new era—the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian.

Inside the middle section of this month's issue is a four-page, full-color photo montage of the events of the grand opening in Washington, D.C.

## Roads program receives funding to begin creating transit program

OKMULGEE — In 2003, Ben Chaney, Transportation Planner, began the quest of developing a Transit Authority for the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. After initial logistical research of establishing such a system, a survey form was developed to evaluate the need of the Indian communities and individuals within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Nation. Surveys are currently being accepted and can be obtained at: Indian community centers; main tribal complex; roads department offices; and at [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov).

The Transit Authority Program will be funded through the Indian Reservation Roads Program and will be the first for the regional office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Muskogee. All required documents have been prepared,

submitted and approved by the BIA and the funds have been transferred to the Nation.



Pictured above with Chief Ellis, from left to right, are members of the Transit Committee: Ben Chaney, Roberta Haney, David King, and Lucas Taylor.

photo by Jennifer Taryole

Plans for the Transit Authority will include the construction of a bus terminal, the purchase of several buses, and the establishment of regular routes from community centers to the main tribal complex and points beyond. One of the buses will be dedicated to the needs of dialysis patients.

"This is an essential, ongoing program that will insure safe, economical, and greater access to

areas of importance to the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," said Chief Ellis.

Presently, the Transit Committee is concentrating on issues regarding program awareness and presentation of the program to the Muscogee Nation National Council.



## Expression of appreciation

**Editor:**

I would like to express my appreciation to David Proctor of the Housing Authority and his crew, David Pascale and Silas Baker, for coming out to my mother's house and working after hours to repair her plumbing. They found the problem and had it fixed within an hour and a half. That's great work! Your deeply appreciated. Thank you.

**Norma Cloud, Henryetta**

## Blues Society thanks Creek Nation Festival Committee

**Editor:**

I wanted to take the time to say thank you for inviting the Blues Society of Tulsa to your Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Festival. At one of our monthly meetings, we were invited by Barney Ingram of Medicine Pony and Ruth Bible. I wish to thank you and them for the hospitality that we were shown and allowing us to go backstage to meet some of the band members between sets.

Barney did a great job doing the emcee duties and he kept everyone entertained between bands. The lineup was very good and we could not have asked for a better mix of national, as well as local talents. Having some Cherokee ancestry myself, it makes me very proud to see something of this magnitude and professionalism performed by some of our country's indigenous peoples.

Also, I had never witnessed a more peaceful group of people as I had that weekend. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves completely. Besides the concerts, I particularly enjoyed all the great food and watching the Lacrosse games. Next time I'll have to make time for some of the other events. Thank you again,

**Eddie Bagwell, Vice President of Blues Society, Tulsa**

## Mayor thanks tribe for help during fire disaster

**Editor:**

After the recent unfortunate event of the fire that destroyed our warehouse that contained city property, we want to thank Creek Nation for helping us by bringing drinking water to pass out to the people of the town.

Approximately 80% of Native Americans make up our town. Our School has 146 students, with 110 being Native American.

So again, we would like to say thank you to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for all their help. The Tribe also helped us with grants for a new water system for the city.

Sincerely

**Cleo Robinson, Mayor, Dustin**

## Family expresses gratitude for assistance

**Editor:**

We would like to thank all the people who came to help in our time of need. We lost our home to a fire on Sept. 4. We've had to start all over. We are so glad

their are good people whom are still willing to give. We would like to thank the Red Cross, Creek Nation Social Service, Muscogee Creek Nation Travel Plaza, Second Chief Berryhill, and the Creek Nation Housing Authority for all the donations.

**Chris Hill and Family, Okmulgee**

## Family remembers loved one

**Editor:**

Kendall Thompson was born Oct. 1, 1969 and passed away on Oct. 1, 1997. He was born to Joyce and Tim Thompson of Yardeka. His paternal grandmother are Bessie Fife and the late George Thompson. As his parents, we'd like to share some of the special things we remember about him.

He always liked to joke and laugh. He loved to dance, not just stomp dance either! He enjoyed playing basketball, his favorite sport. Kendall would talk and visit with anyone. He was always ready to listen to whoever needed him to listen. You never seen him without a smile, at least not until it was time to go home.

There was one thing he wanted you to do and that was to believe in what you thought was right. He once said you always believe in yourself!

Friends, this was a big part of his life. By this I mean the man was everywhere. Talk about someone who never met a stranger, this was him. His honesty was another good point. If he told you something, then you know you could believe it. Very seldom did he ever tell a story without the truth.

He knew a lot of little kids too. But there was always that special little girl in his life, his niece Tamiko Dee. In his eyes this little girl could have walked on the moon. To Kendall, this child could do no wrong. In fact, neither his niece or nephew do no wrong in his eyes. You can bet his nephew will grow up just like Kendall. He loved and cared for these kids as if they were his own.

This is what I know will live on forever. Memories of someone who is so special to many people. That my friend is something nobody can or will every take away from you. Anyone who knew Kendall should know how hard he tried at anything he did. He was always trying to forgive someone. If he could help you in anyway he would do it. He once said life was too short to sit around waiting on a new hit to come along.

As time has passed, we've come to learn there is always a past. His friendly smile is what drew you near, and his laughter was so soft and sweet. His words he spoke with no fear. He loved his mother, father and his brother Lance and sister Tina very much. This is a very special memory of Kendall to them. By family, we also mean Hickory Ground Ceremonial Ground members, he loved each and everyone there. He would have told them love one another and keep on going.

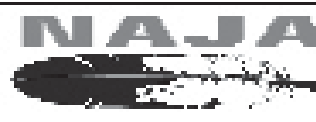
**Joyce Thompson, Henryetta**



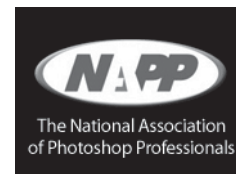
Thompson



Members of the following two associations:



**Native American Journalist Association**



**The Muscogee Nation News** is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to **The Muscogee Nation News**, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

**The Muscogee Nation News** is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

**LUCAS TAYLOR**  
Managing Editor

**DENISE JACOBS**  
Editorial Assistant

**GERALD WOFFORD**  
Photography/Writer

**JENNIFER TARYOLE**  
Staff Writer

**CARLA BROWN**  
Graphic Designer

**JOSHUA SLANE**  
Reporter

**WILMA MURPHY**  
Circulation

Subscription Rate:  
1 Year - \$12  
Send money order to:  
Communications Dept.  
PO BOX 580  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Change of Address:  
(918) 732-7637  
wmurphy@muscogeenation-  
nsn.gov

Office of the Principal

by Q.D. Ellis

Hello again my friends...  
Chief...  
Saturday, Sept. 4, I attended Chief Smith's, of the Cherokee Nation, State of the Nation Address. He, as do most all Chiefs, feel that survival of our language is one of our top priorities. I am so pleased that our new tribal college at OSU-Okmulgee is offering Creek Language and we have many students working toward college credits.  
On Sept. 9, I invited the Cherokee, Choctaw, Osage, Seminole and Chickasaw Chief's to our mound building to speak about State Question 712. This is a state question to allow a compact between that State of Oklahoma and tribes about gaming. The Compact is 76 pages long, so it is too long and complicated to recite, but the five mentioned Tribes above are totally supportive of 712.  
On the other hand, on October 4th, the National Council



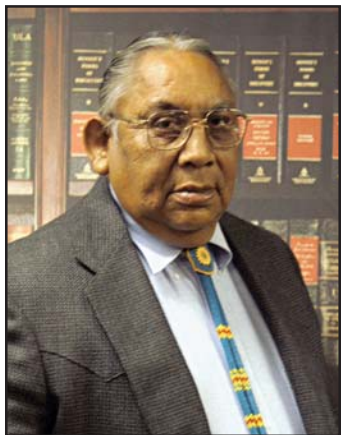
invited State Representative Forrest Claunch from Midwest City and Chief Kay Rhoades of the Sac and Fox Tribe to speak. These speakers are opposed to any kind of compact with the State. Representative Claunch is opposed to any kind of gaming, period! *I do not, and will not speak for the Tribal Council, but I personally support Question 712. I have completely read all 76 pages over and over. Better education for all 12,000 Creek students in public schools and a much better potential for our unpredictable future in gaming. I go on record with this opinion.*  
September 21 was a great day for the American Indians to be recognized in our Nation's Capitol, Washington D.C. Myself, along with my wife, Gail, and about 225 tribal citizens walked slowly to the National Museum of American Indians. The procession, that included hundreds of tribes from throughout the U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico and South America, was inspiring and beautiful. I was so proud to represent the Creek people as your elected leader. The highlight of the entire museum is the movie about history and featuring the Creek Nation. Former Chief Beaver, Chebon Gouge, Rev. Harry Long, and the National Council will be seen by millions of people.  
All aspects of our tribal government are progressing and programs for direct client services are top priority. The Tulsa

Casino, Coweta Clinic and Fountainhead Lodge are receiving top attention.  
The children's clothing for school was very successful. Additional funds are being made available as I write this article.  
Work on our new industrial park, north of Okmulgee, will be under way as you read this. This is very important because this will be home for the new Tribal Transit System. Ben Chaney is busy looking at new buses to purchase and the bus routes that will be established.  
Another new area that is now active is the Tribal Farm. After setting idle and unmanaged for many years, it is now being cleared and re-fenced. Several hundred acres of alfalfa have been planted on the farm. This is good work and management by Second Chief Berryhill and the Trade and Commerce Authority.  
The next 60 days are very important to the Creek Nation and to America. Everyone please register to vote and support your choice. Let's elect people who work for Indian Nations in Washington and also state questions that protect and serve Creek people. *Mvto.*  
Quote of the month: *Every flower must grow through dirt.*

Second opinion

by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

Nettv Herv (Good day). We have been having a lot of good days lately, but I think that we do need some rain. I understand that our Nation was well represented at the opening of the American Indian Museum in Washington, D. C. I had planned to go, but the work must go on here.  
We plan to have a workshop on Self Governance. It seems that there is a great deal we need to know concerning this policy. Our new Veterans representative has been hard at work trying to reach as many veterans as he can to assist them in getting the proper benefits that they deserve. Ken Davis tells me that we may be soon going to Washington, D. C. to meet with some officials concerning the acquisition of a tank or a piece of artillery. We hope to enhance the memorial for our veterans.  
Recently, some of our employees have been taking some Creek language and history classes. We hope that this will soon be available to all citizens.  
I understand that there is a project underway to have a gathering of the Deer Clan. I'm most interested in seeing all the Deer Clan members because my father was of the Deer



Clan and my mother was of the Alligator Clan. I really don't know how many clans there were, but not all clans are animals. Some of the other clans are the Sweet Potato Clan and the Wind Clan.  
The clan system was very important to our ancestors. Each time the elders would meet and really didn't know each other, they would ask each other what clan they were and what tribal town they belonged to. This would give them an idea of where each was from. Your clan is determined by what clan your mother belongs to and your tribal town is determined the same way.  
Let's say my father is a deer, that makes all male deer's my father and a female deer would be my aunt. My mother was an alligator so all alligators that are male are my brothers and all females my sisters. When our elders were in a gathering, the subject of what clan each belonged to became a matter of fun or camaraderie.  
For instance, if there were two alligators, they would begin teasing each other. But if one of their fathers were around, he would begin to brag on his son. And, the son of a clan would brag on his father. Sometimes the bragging was so real that some people believed what was said. There was a man that was bragging on my dad because dad was his father in clan. He asked this other person if he had been to the fair? He replied, "no." He said, "Well you really need to go because Togo has a prize bull that's been winning all kinds of ribbons and they're going to have a big auction on Saturday. Little did the man know but this wasn't true. He had went to the fair that Saturday and looked for my dad's bull. The next Sunday

all these men were together again and this man told these guys. "I looked all over the place where the bulls were and I never did see Togo's bull." Well I guess you can guess the rest. Everyone began laughing.  
The clan system also served as a way of making the tribe a family because no matter where you went, you always had a father or a brother. One other reason was that if a child was seen doing something wrong, the person who saw them committing a wrong had the authority to discipline the child on the spot. Not only was he/she punished once, but when the parents were told, they received another discipline from their parents. How many of you have had to go and get the switch that you would be disciplined with?  
By belonging to a tribal town, you had the right to take medicine, if you had done certain things or met the requirements. And, you could vote in that tribal town's election. These things make our people unique. I know that other Tribes have clans and towns also. Knowing our clan also gave us respect to the animals around us.  
So when you meet someone who belongs to the clan of your father, you refer to him as cvrke (cvr-ke). The brother part gets a little tricky because there is always a little humor that goes along with it. Like, you may be about the same age as your brother, but because you want to seem younger, you say "svmvolat (sv-mv-co-lat) tos". He's my elder brother. And, a brother-in-law would be called "vn cukowakke" (the one that lays around the house).  
We do, however, when speaking to a large gathering  
please see **OPINION...**, page 18



## Education

### Beals attends school of medicine

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — Among sixty-two new freshman medical students, members of the doctor of medicine class of 2008, who began their medical education on Aug. 2 at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Science, was Bryan Beals.

The M.D. class of 2008's first week of medical school was dedicated to orientation, which includes an introduction to the four-year medical education curriculum. Emphasis was placed on the student's new roles as health care professionals and the faculty's expectations.

The students' orientation week concluded with the Class of 2008 White Coat ceremony. During the ceremony, students were cloaked in their first white coats, the traditional garment of the physician, which were donated by the North Dakota Medical Association. They also recited the Oath of Hippocrates, an ancient vow to uphold basic professional principles.

Beals is the son of Bobby and Vicki Beals of Watonga and the grandson of James and Collene Jones of Dustin.



Beals

### Benge graduates from Sequoyah high school

TAHLEQUAH — Kryste Benge of Muskogee is a 2004 graduate from Sequoyah High School. She maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her high school years and was on the Superintendent's honor roll.

Kryste is a recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship, founded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She was also awarded the Miss Sequoyah Scholarship and received another from the Indian University Scholar Society.

Along with her many scholarships, she was also recognized by several national honor societies such as: the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma as Student of Today; Who's Who Among American High School Students; Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society; and Outstanding Students of America.

Kryste was very active in school. She was president of the National Honor Society, senior class president, a member of the gifted and talented and the American Indian Science and Engineering, co-captain of the cheerleading squad, and member of the Sequoyah High School dance team. Benge also ran cross country and was an active member of the Honoring Our Peoples



Benge

## Students perform at the National Museum of the American Indian grand opening

GLENPOOL — Twelve students from Glenpool performed at the grand opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. on Sept. 20 through 25. Two of the students are featured in exhibits inside the museum.

The Tvstvnvke Singers marched in the Native Nations Procession to the opening ceremonies. The group sang creek hymns and gave a stomp dance exhibition at the Lincoln Memorial reflecting pool. The group also performed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The students' sponsors, parents and volunteers have spent the last few months making traditional clothing for the students to wear at their performances. Students also have learned to make traditional Creek moccasins.

The 12 students became eligible to go on the trip from teacher recommendation forms given out at the end of the last school year.

Tvstvnvke is the Creek word for warrior, which is the mascot for Glenpool Public Schools.

"This gives the students an opportunity to see and meet people from other native tribes," said Kristi Collington, the director of Indian Education at Glenpool Public Schools. "It also allows them to travel outside of Oklahoma. Most of them have never been on a air-



plane before. This trip gives them a sense of pride to represent Creek Nation on a national level."

Glenpool public schools was awarded in March with the Creek Nation Johnson O'Malley Exemplary Program of the Year.

Felicia Factor and Toni Factor, are featured inside the museum. Felecia, a freshman at Seminole State College and the oldest member of the Tvstvnvke Singers, is included in a video exhibit. Toni, a ninth grader, is included in a painting. The sisters earned the titles of Miss Muscogee Creek Nation and Junior Miss Muscogee Nation, respectively last year.

The museum, the latest addition to the Smithsonian Institution, is located on the Mall in Washington D.C., just in front of the U.S. Capitol building. It was constructed because of the Smithsonian's efforts to make a place for a remembrance and celebration of the people who were here first.

The Glenpool students were joined by other schools from Oklahoma. The Grove Native American Performing Arts Troupe, made up of students from Grove Middle School and the Cherokee National Youth Choir of Tahlequah, also performed during the ceremonies. For more information about the Grove group, call Lona Hampton at (918) 786-2209.

Existence, where she served as their 2003-04 H.O.P.E. Princess.

She is the daughter of Sue Ann Harjo and Marcellus Benge. Her maternal grandparents are the late Marsey Harjo and Rosalie Harjo. Paternal grandmother is Frances Benge of Tahlequah. Maternal great-grandparents are the late Mitchell Harjo and Louisa Harjo.

She is attending Northeastern State University, where she is majoring in Criminal Justice and Psychology. Her goal is to one day serve as the Attorney General for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

## Birthday

### Tottress celebrates with Strawberry shortcake

TULSA — Jaebri Evonne Tottress celebrated her second birthday on Sept. 25 at Chuck E. Cheese with a Strawberry Shortcake theme.

She is the daughter of Kermitta Harris of Coweta and Johnathon Tottress of Henryetta.

Maternal grandparents are Sharon and the late Kermit Harris Sr. of Okmulgee.



Tottress

Paternal grandparents are John Tottress of Boynton and Ivalene Tottress of Henryetta. Jaebri is the great granddaughter of Ivaline Melton of Henryetta.

## Society

### Doyle's celebrate 54th wedding anniversary

OAKHURST — A 54th wedding anniversary celebration was held on Aug. 28 at the Indian Fellowship Baptist Church for Rev. George and Nora Doyle.

Rev. Doyle attended school in Bearden and Nora attended Eufaula Girls Bording School.

George enlisted in the United States Navy and Marines in 1943. He was honorably discharged in 1946. In 1948, George met Nora Wind in Tulsa. They were married on Aug. 29, 1950, residing in Tulsa.

George was ordained as a minister at High Spring Baptist Church in 1955. He has pastored High Springs Baptist, Indian Fellowship Baptist, Snake Creek Baptist Church and is currently



G. and N. Doyle



## Sapulpa Health Center improves facilities to help serve Creek citizens

OKMULGEE — The Sapulpa Indian Health Clinic has completed its renovation and changed the look and size of the facility.

"We've more than doubled in size to over 15,000 square feet," said Florence July, Sapulpa Health Service Administrator. "The old green tile is gone and replaced with brightly colored walls and floors. The colors are a variation of the colors in the Muscogee seal."

The center now has two waiting areas, one for the general medical clinic and the other for the pharmacy, lab or x-ray services. These three areas, pharmacy, lab and x-ray have all increased in floor space. The center now has 14 patient exam rooms.

Other area health service programs have in-

creased as well. Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program have their own waiting area and office space.

The Diabetes program has their own area, including a large conference room equipped with cooking stove and refrigerator, which are used during EPIC or general diabetes classes. The Dental program has increased in size by adding addi-

tional dental chairs for patients.

"Needless to say, we are very proud and honored to serve at the new Sapulpa Clinic," said July.

Citizens are encouraged to come by and see the new center. To schedule an appointment, please contact the Sapulpa Health Center at (918) 224-9310 or visit them at 1125 East Cleveland Street in Sapulpa.



## Diabetes Prevention Program receives excellence award

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Diabetes Prevention Program staff was recently awarded the IHS Director's Award for Excellence in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for their efforts in planning and implementing diabetes prevention youth camps. The award was presented at the Indian Health Summit in Washington D.C.

Mvskokvlke PRIDE (Preventing and Reducing Indian Diabetes Everyday) Diabetes Youth Prevention day camps for Youth were initiated during the summer of 2004. These camps provided five hours of diabetes prevention topics and 13 hours of physical activity to youth ages 10 to 15. The camps were held in the four clinic communities within the Creek Nation boundary area. These communities were Eufaula, Okemah, Okmulgee and Sapulpa. A total of 130 youth participated in the four different day camps.

The Diabetes Program developed a Diabetes Prevention curriculum made up of 5 parts: Part 1, What

is Diabetes and Pre Diabetes; Part 2, Prevent Diabetes through Good Nutrition; Part 3, Learning Balance Today – Progression of Diabetes; Part 4, My Decision to be Healthy; and Part 5, Choose to be Active and Prevent Diabetes.

The importance of increasing physical activity was integrated into the camp curriculum through out each day during cooperative and fitness games, as well as on field trips that included bowling, hiking, swimming and skating. The importance of healthy eating was emphasized also by providing

healthy lunches and snacks each day. The third day, campers were provided opportunities to select healthy lunch choices from the water park lunch facilities. Incentives included Nike water bottles on the first day, t-shirts with camp logo on the second day and a trip to "Big Splash" water park on the last day.

A wide and varied range of organizations and businesses volunteered their services for resources in each community.

These included schools and churches, bowling alleys, roller

rinks, swimming pools and parks. By developing partnerships with these agencies, many of the facilities were free of charge and available for future camp use. Transportation resources were made available from various tribal and community agencies to carry campers to different sites within the community. A van and bus from the tribal Childcare was used for two camps and school buses from a public school and the Eufaula Boarding School was used for the other two



Okemah campers participate in a martial arts presentation by tribal EMS employee Henry Harper.

photo by Scott Robison

camps.

In addition to the Diabetes Program staff at each site, other staff members were recruited from other tribal organizations to oversee and encourage camper safety and participation. Two tribal agencies provided camp counselors and one camp was conducted in cooperation with the Johnson O'Malley program. The Creek Nation Community Health Representatives and Social Services provided employees for each camp as well.

## Caregiver Program offers grandparents opportunity to hire respite worker

OKMULGEE — The Native American Caregiver Support Program is offering grandparents or senior citizens an opportunity to hire a respite (relief) worker to help with caregiving duties of dependents under the age eighteen.

The program offers an 80 hour respite service and you have twelve weeks to use it. The program also allows individuals the option of who they want to hire and the Caregiver Program will pay them.

How does having someone help with baby-sitting or housework sound while you go out to the spa? Or maybe you would rather go play bingo or to a gospel singing, whatever activity you enjoy, the Respite Service will help you to do it.

Eligibility for Respite Service include the following: Native Americans over age 55; must live within the Creek Nation service area; and must be the primary care provider of a child under eighteen years of age in your home.

For the application or for more information you may contact the DHA Creek Nation Caregiver Program at 1-800-353-3439 or 918-758-2727 extension 260 and ask for Loretta Wind Jumper, Program Coordinator.



## Doctor's Note

From the office of Dr. Lawrence Vark, C.M.O.

### Time for Flu vaccine

Influenza is a contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus which infects many parts of the body, including the lungs. Someone who has the flu spreads the virus by sneezing, coughing, or even talking. Flu may be transmitted by direct hand contact.

The following are some of the people for whom influenza vaccine is recommended in the United States: people 50 and older; anyone 6 months and older who has medical problems such as heart or lung disease (including asthma), diabetes, kidney disease or a weak immune system; women who will be 14 or more weeks pregnant between December and March, which is flu season; health-care workers; caregivers who work with or live with people with the problems listed above; and anyone who wants to avoid the risk of spreading the flu and its possible complications to a loved one or friend. Flu vaccine protects not only you, but also the people you care about.



# Housing Authority offers two assistance programs

OKMULGEE—The Mortgage Assistance Program helps Native American people become first time homeowners.

With many Native American families never becoming homeowners due to the high cost of obtaining a mortgage loan, the Mortgage Assistance Program was designed to help eligible clients with the financial assistance needed to acquire a mortgage loan. In order to meet out of pocket expenses, such as down payment and closing fees, the Mortgage Assistance Program provides grant assistance for families who meet program requirements.

To be eligible for the program, clients must meet the following requirements established by The Mortgage Assistance Program and by the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA): have proof of tribal affiliation; be a first time home buyer (defined as not having a mortgage in the prior three years of an application date with the Mortgage Assistance Program; purchase and reside permanently in that home, which must be within the jurisdictional boundaries as defined by program policies; meet income guidelines; be 18 years or older; provide all requested information; sign all required forms; and be able and willing to meet all credit check and financial obligations.

**If a client meets all program requirements, they will be pre-approved and referred to an outside lender who will then determine if the client qualifies for a mortgage loan. The applicant must be aware that MAP pre-approval does not guarantee a mortgage loan from an outside lender.**

For more information, contact Barbara Lane at 752-3236

The Housing Division Emergency Rental Assistance program offers low income Indian families residing in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdictional service area, with preference given to Creek citizens.

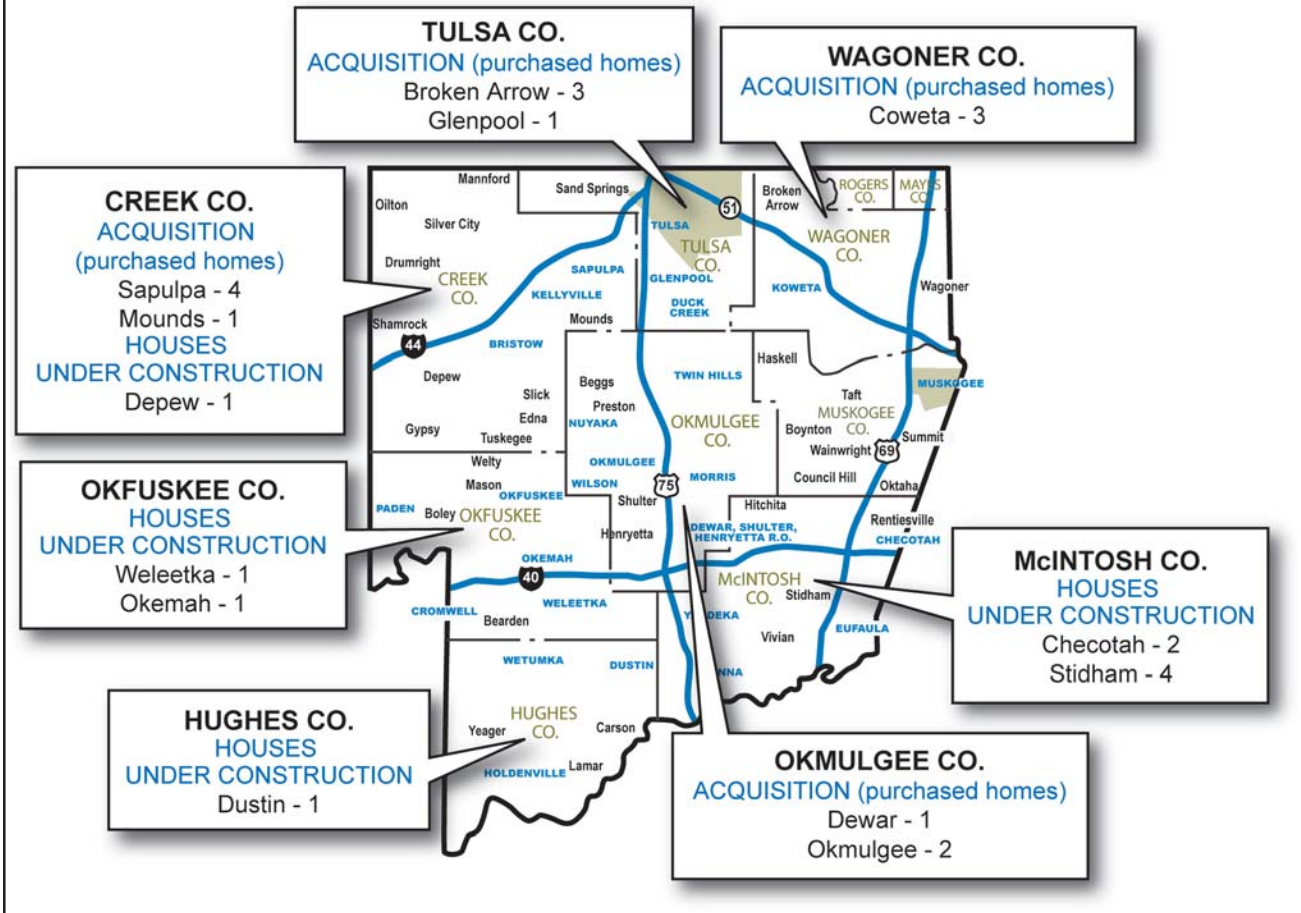
Grants may be given for shelter costs, utility costs (electric, heating fuel, and water) or deposits for same. Duplication of services are not allowable. The assistance will be based on housing needs and/or preference for replacement housing according to HUD low income guidelines.

To apply for the program clients must complete an Emergency Rental Application and have all required documents, which will be verified by phone.

The applicant must provide the following documents and meet all program guidelines: applicant, shall be head of household or significant other, shall provide a copy of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Card or tribal membership card of a federally recognized Indian tribe; applicant must document a break in income or extenuating circumstances (i.e. loss of wages due to illness, death or unemployment); and proof of income documents, for head of household and for each household member 18 years old or older. Certified letter from employer and/or State Agencies, current payroll stubs and/or letter of application for disability with Doctor's recommendation, statement from Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, DHS, General Assistance, Social Security Benefits, Veterans Administration, etc.

For more information contact the Rental Assistance program at (918) 756-8504 or 1 (800) 259-5050. You may also apply in person at the Housing Division, 2951 N. Wood Dr., Okmulgee.

## DIVISION OF HOUSING ACQUISITION HOMES PURCHASED HOUSES UNDER CONSTRUCTION During September and October 2004



Selling or buying a home



Cynthia "Janie" Fox  
918-378-2679  
11717 South Memorial Drive  
Bixby, OK 74008  
Jfox@tulsarealtors.com



## Free college planning seminar

TULSA — The University of Tulsa and the Simon Estes Educational Foundation are working together to put on a free seminar, offered to all area high school students and parents for success in planning their higher educational futures.

Valuable information, including topics such as taking the ACT/SAT tests, developing an action plan for success, finding the right college, and paying for college will be provided.

The seminar will be held on October 23, from 10 a.m. to noon at the University of Tulsa's Kendall Hall Theatre. For more information please contact The Simon Estes Educational Foundation, Inc. at (918) 583-0500 or [hollie@seef.org](mailto:hollie@seef.org).

## Higher Education accepting requests for applications

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Department is currently accepting written requests for applications for the Spring and Summer 2005 terms.

Prospective students must meet the following criteria: be planning to attend a nationally accredited two year Jr. Community College or a four year college/university; must possess a CDIB and Creek tribal membership cards; apply for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA); and return completed applications before the closing date of December 15.

Current high school students may send written requests for application in January 2005. Applications for the summer 2005, fall 2005, and spring 2006 terms will be mailed out in February, 2005.

Send requests to: Creek Nation Higher Education Department, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447 or e-mail to [cdavis@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:cdavis@muscogeenation-nsn.gov). For further information, contact the Higher Education Department at (918) 732-7688.

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference

OKMULGEE — The Creek Nation Senior Services Program, in collaboration with Seminole tribal members, will be hosting a *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* conference at the Creek Nation Complex. Over 20 tribes have been contacted about the conference.

Sandy Ingraham, who holds a Juris Doctorate in Law and a Master's in Social Welfare, will be presenting information about navigating the legal system, guardianship, custody, adoption and other legalities concerning our grandchildren. A representative of Creek Nation legal department will also be participating.

All senior citizens and employees who welcome to participate. For more information, contact Jackson Barnett at (918) 732-7723.

## Iraq and Afghanistan care packages

OKMULGEE — Care packages will be sent to Muscogee citizens on active duty status deployed with military units stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office requests that families of military personnel on duty in Iraq or Afghanistan, contact Ken Davis at (918) 732-7739, fax, (918) 732-7951, or e-mail to [kendavis@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:kendavis@muscogeenation-nsn.gov). Please provide the name,

rank, unit, and military mailing address of your military personnel family member.

The care packages will consist of sealed, non-perishable food products and reading literature. There will be no costs to families or the military personnel for the care packages.

## Emergency Hardship Program revised

OKMULGEE — Over the past several months, tribal administration and Social Services have been revising the guidelines for the Emergency Hardship Program to better serve the tribal citizens.

Some of the changes included increasing the maximum grant amount and eliminating the service area for the program so all tribal members can apply, regardless of where they reside. The legislation for these changes was sponsored by Representative Ron Cleghorn. During September's National Council meeting, a unanimous vote by the National Council allowed these changes to become law.

For more information about the Emergency Hardship Program, contact Social Services at (918) 732-7620 or 1(800) 482-1979, ext. 7620.

## Gates Millennium Scholars applications

FAIRFAX, VA. — The Gates Millennium Scholars is now accepting applications. To be eligible for the scholarships, students must be American Indian, Alaskan Native (Federally or State Recognized), African American, Asian, Pacific Islander American, or Hispanic American. They also have to be entering a nationally accredited college or university as a full time freshmen in the fall of 2005, have maintained a 3.3 cumulative GPA or earned a GED, meet the federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria, and demonstrate leadership abilities through participating in community service, extracurricular activities or other activities.

The 2005-2006 Gates Millennium Scholarship packet is available on-line at [www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org) or [www.aigc.com](http://www.aigc.com). The deadline to apply is January 14, 2005.

## Veterans recognition ceremony

OKMULGEE — Creek military veterans, Jackson Barnett, Thomas Yahola, Ken Davis, and Robert Jones have developed a special ceremony honoring the veterans. The ceremony plans to recognize each veteran individually.

Being that Veterans Day will be on Nov. 11 and many veterans may have plans to attend other functions, the ceremony is planned for Nov. 10 at the Creek Nation Mound Building beginning at 11 a.m. Veterans are requested to be there by 9:30 a.m. for rehearsal of the days activities. Veterans interested in the ceremony are asked to submit their name, branch of service, rank and dates of service by October 31.

For more information or to register, contact Ken Davis at (918) 732-7739 or Jackson Barnett at (918) 732-7723.

Muscogee Creek Nation donates \$1,000 to the Okmulgee County Homeless Shelter

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation donated \$1,000 to the Okmulgee County Homeless Shelter Inc. "We recognized a great need for a homeless shelter," said

Second Chief Alfred Berryhill. "The Okmulgee County Homeless Shelter is a place for them to go. After all, we're part of the Community as well."

The Okmulgee County Homeless Shelter has been in operation for nine years. The shelter is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. During this past year, Native Americans stayed in the shelter a total of 399 days, totalling 39% of the total days stayed. Creeks stayed a total of 145 days, or 15% of the total days stayed. In addition, the shelter has prevented homelessness in 45 Native Americans, 40 of whom were Creek citizens. Homeless prevention monies are used to prevent evictions and utility cutoffs.

Transients are allowed to stay for up to 4 days. Okmulgee county residents, who enter the shelter, may stay up to 30 days, depending on the circumstances and the progress they are willing to make on their own behalf. Residents receive a safe clean place to stay, three meals a day, and assistance with overcoming their individual barriers to self-sufficiency. Residents are given clean serviceable clothing, personal hygiene items, and access to showers and laundry facilities at the shelter.

The shelter also provides transportation for job search to clients. Assistance with emergency medical treatment, prescription medication, vision and dental needs is also available through United Way funding. Those interested are able to receive assistance with GED training and testing, obtaining identification, making application for HUD Section 8 rental assistance and information on renter / landlord rights.

## Creek Festival Hymnal singing DVD's available

OKMULGEE — During the recent Creek Nation Festival, Methodist and Baptists churches of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation held a gospel singing inviting denominational churches and individual groups to share songs in the Creek language.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department have produced a DVD set from the recorded singings of the Methodist and Baptist Hymnal singing held at the Okmulgee Community Center on Friday, June 18 and Saturday, June 20. Prices for each nightly singing is \$20, and \$30 for both nights.

DVD's can be ordered by contacting the Communications Department at (918) 732-7635.

## Reunions

### Tiger Family Reunion

HENRYETTA — All descendants of Miller Tiger, Jeddie Tiger, Wilson Tiger, Jefferson Tiger, Hettie Tiger, Toney Tiger, or Jeanetta Tiger Burgess are invited to the 5th annual Tiger Family Reunion on Oct. 23, beginning at noon. The reunion is being held at the Henryetta Civic Center located at 115 S. 4th.

Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish and an item to be used as a door prize. Also, family members are encouraged to bring any family photographs or other articles of family interest from the past to share.

For more information, contact: Elise Lowery at (918) 652-9719; Yahola Tiger Jr. at (918) 456-1217; Judy Pickering at (918) 689-4180; or Jon Tiger at (918) 689-3654.

October District Court filings

Marriage License:

- Bobby Maratin and Cathrine Weatherford

Protective Orders:

- PEREZ: Rickey v. PEREZ: Tammy
- JACK: Paulinie v. LAWSON: Rickey
- WOOD: Georgia v. WOOD: Anthony
- PEREZ: Rickey v. PERTZ: Tammy
- SEXTON: Ceilla v. HOGGAT BLACKBOURN: Tina

Criminal - Felony:

- MCN v. CHILD: Shawn

Poss. of Illegal Drugs

Criminal - Misdemeanor

None

Traffic:

- MCN v. DODD: Aaron Lance

Poss. of Alcohol

- MCN v. STIGER: Johnathan

Poss. Of Alcohol

Family Domestic:

None

Divorce:

- WOOD: Georgia v. WOOD: Anthony
- TIGER: Lucille Ann v. KELLEY: Matthew
- HEDGE: Debbie v. HEDGEL William
- LONG: Susan v. LONG: Donald
- BEAR: Rhonda v. TIGER: Ted

Civil/ Small Claims:

- WOODFORT: WILLIAM v. MCN Citizenship Appeal of Denial of Citizenship
- MONTGOMERY: Consuelo v. ADDISON: Kasey

Petition to Establish Paternity

- Credit Bureau Services v. TIGER: Earnest

Foreign Judgment

- Royal Finance v. GOODVOICE: Stephanie

Small Claims

- Royal Finance v. FACTOR: David

Small Claims

- BRADY: Angelique v. JUDD: Bo Allen

Emergency Temporary Custody

- Creek Nation Indian Village Apt. v. WAGNER:

Jeremiah

Foreign Judgment

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,

Volume 33, Issue 8, August 2004

Case No. CRM 2 004-14

In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,  
Okmulgee District: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Plaintiff vs.  
**Bilby: Donald**, Defendant

JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE ON PLEA OF GUILTY

Now on this 28th day of June, 2004 the same being a judicial day of said Court, and the time appointed for judgment and sentence in the above entitled cause, the defendant, Donald Bilby, present in

open court with his Attorney Rod Wiemer, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation being represented by Assistant Prosecutor Shannon Prescott;

The Defendant having been legally charged by Information filed in this cause with a criminal offense and having been dully arraigned thereon; the said defendant personally entered a plea of guilty to the crimes of; **COUNT ONE: PUBLIC INTOXICATION (MCNCA Title 14 § 2-707) and COUNT TWO: BATTERY (MCNCA Title 14 § 2-2003)** as charged in said Information.

The Court prior to accepting said plea informed the defendant of his Constitutional rights, including his right to legal counsel and trial by jury; his right to be confronted by his accusers and his right to the privilege against compulsory self-incrimination; and in response to questioning by the Court, the defendant said that he understood his Constitutional rights and he waived each of them, and presisted in his plea of guilty. The Court further informed the defendant of the minimum and maximum penalty provided by law for the aforesaid offense, and the effect of such plea; and after being further interrogated by the Court the defendant stated that he is guilty of said crime and that his plea of guilty is voluntary and is made by him without inducement or coercion.

The Court thereupon accepted the defendant’s plea of guilty to the aforesaid crimes; and the defendant having been asked by the Court whether he had any legal cause to show why judgment and sentence should not now be pronounced against him, and he stating no such sufficient cause, and none appearing to the Court;

**IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THE COURT** that the defendant Donald Bilby, is **guilty** of the crimes of Count one and Count Two in said information.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED BY THE COURT** that the defendant Donald Bilby be committed to the Custody of the Chief of the Lighthorse Police for a term of six (6) months Suspended Sentence, all but ten (10) days Suspended to be severed in Okmulgee County jail. Defendant is given ten (10) days Credit for Time served. Said remaining jail time to be suspended provided that Defendant timely pay all fines, costs and other fees associated herewith and comply with the Rules and Conditions of Probation signed by the Defendant and the Court, filed in this case and incorporated herein by this reference.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the defendant Donald Bilby pay fines and costs per the attached Exhibit A.

The Court further advised the defendant of his right to appeal to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court, and of the necessary steps to be taken by him to perfect such appeal.

/s/ Patrick Moore, District Court Judge  
/s/ Tobie King, Deputy Court Clerk/Notary Public  
/s Rod Wiemer, Attorney for Defendant  
/s/ Shannon Prescott, Assistant Prosecutor

Published in *The Muscogee Nation News*,

Volume 33, Issue 8, August 2004

=Case No. CRM 2004-13

In the District court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee

District: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Plaintiff vs. RUSSELL: Porter, Defendant

DEFERRED JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE

Now on this 10th day of June, 2004 the same being a judicial day of said Court, and the time appointed for judgment and sentence in the above entitled cause, the defendant, **Porter Russell**, appears pro se and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation being represented by Assistant Prosecutor Shannon L. Prescott;

The Defendant having been legally charged by Criminal Complaint and Information filed in this case with a Criminal offense and having been dully arraigned thereon; the said defendant personally entered a plea of guilty to the crime of **COUNT ONE: Public Intoxication, (MCNCA Title 14 § 2-707)** as charged in said Information.

The Court, without entering a finding of guilt **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** a deferred sentencing of **Ninety (90) days**.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Defendant adhere to the Rules and Conditions of Probation, Incorporated now herein by this reference.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Defendant is to pay costs and fines associated with this matter and in accordance with the attached Exhibit A. Failure to make a payment as scheduled is a violation of the Rules and Conditions of Probation and grounds for the acceleration of this sentence.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that in the event of a violation of the terms and conditions of the deferred sentence, that this order of deferred sentence be immediately accelerated and that judgment of guilt be entered on the defendant’s plea of guilty, and that sentence be imposed as provided by law.

/s/ Patrick Moore, District Court Judge

State Questions for Election November 2

STATE QUESTION NO. 705

This measure creates the Oklahoma Education Lottery Act. It creates the Oklahoma Lottery commission. The Commission will govern by a board of trustees. The Commission will operate a state lottery. The board will write rules regarding the conduct of lottery games. At least 45% of the revenue from ticket sales will be returned as prizes. The net proceeds of the lottery will be used for education purposes. Net proceeds will equal at least 35% of ticket proceeds except for the first two years. The act contains provisions relating to the selection and regulation of retailers. This act would lose the force and effect of law under certain conditions. The act contains many other provisions relating to the conduct of a state lottery.

STATE QUESTION NO. 706

This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It adds a new section 41 to Article 10. This measure would create the Oklahoma Education Lottery Trust Fund. The trust fund shall consist of monies from the Oklahoma Education for which the trust funds used to support education. The State Board of Equalization will determine if any of the monies in the trust fund are being used to replace state funding of education. If such a finding is made, the Legislature may not make any appropriations until the amount of replaced funding

please see **QUESTIONS....**, page 13



## House Resource Committee approves Indian Health Care legislation

WASHINGTON D.C. — The Indian Health Care Improvement Act of 2003, a bill by Representative Don Young of Alaska, was unanimously passed by the House Resources Committee Wednesday. The legislation, H.R. 2440, is expected to aid in improving the health of Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

"H.R. 2440 marks the first substantive step forward in Indian health care in over a decade," said Resource Committee Chairman Richard Pombo in a press release. "Since the last reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, more than half of the tribes in the United States have exercised their rights under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to assume responsibility to carry out health programs on their own behalf. Congress should encourage this progress and flexibility by allowing tribes continued input through their powers of self-governance so that they can tend to the needs and priorities of their tribal members."

"We have a good bill before us," said Representative Young, "and it is time for Congress to reauthorize The Indian Health Care Improvement Act for the health care delivery of our Native people."

Representative George Nethercutt of Washington said, "I'm encouraged to see that this legislation includes the creation of an Assistant Secretary position at the IHS which will give Native Americans a stronger voice in Washington, D.C."

Nethercutt, along with Senator John McCain, sponsored the original concept. "Health care is a pressing problem in Native American Communities. This change will help IHS advocate for more resources to fight diseases like diabetes that are disproportionately affecting Native Americans."

Diabetes is not the only disease that native Americans face in disproportionate numbers, but it is the most talked about. There are also disparities in other chronic diseases like heart disease and cancer, the two leading causes of death among Native Americans and Alaska Natives, according to a report by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually transmitted diseases like HIV, gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and syphilis are also overrepresented in Native communities.

Infant mortality is 1.7 times higher among Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Funding for Indian health care has taken some hard hits in the last few years, and a number of tribes have taken it upon themselves to improve care for their citizens, including creating diabetes clinics and educating tribal members about good health.

## Dollar Volume of Indian mortgages rises sharply

The real estate boom has made itself a factor in Indian country. For while the federal government said the number of mortgages made to American Indians declined a little last year, the dollar value of those mortgages zoomed by 40 percent.

A total of 3,510 financial institutions made mortgages to Indians or Alaska Natives last year, Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data show. The 2003 total of \$14 billion was 40 percent above the \$9.7 billion registered in 2002 by 3,154 lenders. That's fairly proportional to the nationwide increase in mortgage lending from \$2.7 trillion in 2002 to \$3.9 trillion in 2003, caused by booming real estate prices and ample refinancing.

An earlier HMDA "snapshot" released by the government showed a 4.8 percent decline in the number of mortgages made to Natives year to year. But that was based only on a partial count of home purchase mortgages, leaving out the far-larger refinancing sector.

The top 10 lenders to Indians last year did a volume of \$6.7 billion, far outstripping the \$4.5 billion the top 10 did in 2002. The top 100 was also stronger in 2003 doing \$11.1 billion in Native lending compared to \$7.8 billion in 2002.

That means average lending to Natives at the biggest lenders has gone up, with the top 100 averaging more than \$100 million in mortgages to Indians.

Another milestone was the first-ever \$2 billion Native mortgage year by a single institution Countrywide Home Loans, Calabasas, Calif. led all institutions with \$2.7 billion in lending to Natives. With it's sublime unit, Full Spectrum Lending, factored in, Countrywide did 2.8 billion in Native volume last year, almost doubling 2002's \$1.5 billion. (These and all volumes refer to mortgages made both on- and off- reservation.)

Second again in 2003 was Wells Fargo Bank of San Francisco. Wells has a decentralized reporting structure, and more than 30 of it's banks report HMDA numbers, as well as its mortgage company and finance unit, which both finished in the top ten in lending to Natives.

Put together, Wells' top two units did more than \$1.25 billion in Native lending last year. Adding in the

state units doing business in Indian country would make its results even higher than that.

Taking the bronze medal was Washington Mutual Bank of Seattle. With two reporting Washington Mutual units and a third subprime unit, Long Beach Mortgage, Washington Mutual made more than \$550 million in Native lending last year, barely edging out Wachovia Bank of Winston-Salem, N.C. which has \$541 million.

In fifth was Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corp., Edison, N.J. at \$390 million. It barely edged its rival, Bank of America, Charlotte, N.C., which had \$380 million in loans to Indians and Alaska Natives.

Seventh was a newcomer to the top-10 list, Lehman Brothers Bank, New York, at \$328 million. Eighth was ABN Amro Mortgage of Troy, Mich., at \$319 million.

The ninth rank belongs to Citicorp, N.Y., which like Wells, reports its units individually. Totalling more than 10 Citi units gives it more than \$300 million in Native volume, besting number 10, Aegis Funding Corp. of Houston, another newcomer at \$230 million.

A total of 19 institutions made at least \$100 million in mortgages to Indians last year. Besides the 11 mentioned above they are National City Mortgage, Cleveland; GMAC Mortgage Corp., Horsham, Pa; New Century Mortgage Corp., Irvine, Calif.; Flagstar Bank, Flint, Mich.; Mac-Clair Mortgage, World Savings Bank Oakland and, Calif.; and First Horizon Home Loan, Orange, Calif. The top 20 is a mix of commercial banks, subprime mortgage companies, and a couple of finance companies.

Looking at the bottom of the list, one of three lenders tied for least volume to Indians ironically has an Indian country name. That's Sioux land tied for bottom spot on the 3,510 lender list with Kentucky Bank, Paris, Ken. and Sunrise Family Credit Union, Bay City, Mich.

Those 3,510 were less than half of a total of more than 8,000 that reported HMDA numbers to the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council. That means a majority of lenders in the country made no mortgages to Indians at all last year.

## Funding available to help save endangered languages

The National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities have partnered to offer grants for projects designed to help save endangered languages. This multi-year funding partnership will support projects to develop and advance knowledge concerning endangered human languages.

Funding will support fieldwork and other activities relevant to recording, documenting, and archiving endangered languages, including the preparation of lexicons, grammars, text samples, and databases. Funding will be available in the form of one-to-three- year project grants as well as fellowships for up to twelve months.

At least half the available funding will be awarded to projects involving fieldwork. Academic institutions and nonprofit and nonacademic organizations located in the United States are eligible to apply for funding. U.S. citizens and foreign nationals who have been living in the U.S. or its jurisdictions for at least three years are eligible to apply for fellowships. An estimated 18-22 grants will be made, including 12 fellowships. The program is expected to provide \$2 million annually in funding.

Deadline: November 1, 2004 For more information contact: Amy M. Weaver, Development Officer, Oklahoma Centennial Commission (405) 228-2003.



## 'Tis the season

To be scared, regardless of whether you call it Halloween, All Saint's Eve, or Samhain, October 31 is a season that's easy to get caught up in. A MNN reader suggested we publish a Creek scary story. A special thanks to Jon Tiger for this story.

### NOKOS-OMV: Like a Bear

*This is a true story. My grandfather B.B. Scott would tell us stories about his encounters with the spooky. Once he encountered Nokos omv "like a bear." He was working late nights in Eufaula. He didn't have a car so he walked home, three miles west of town. One night the ground was foggy. He saw something in the fog. He concluded it was Nokos omv. It had a rounded shape like an ant eater with it's head being close to the ground. Being Quarsarte, he believed one should never cross the path of this super natural being. After a short while he went on home.*

*The next day he went and got a gun in town in case he encountered anything else. Well, he locked up shop that night and walked home. He got to the place of the encounter the night before. Sure enough there was Nokos omv again. This time he loaded his pistol and aimed at the creature, but the gun jammed. He got so angry he just tossed the gun away. The creature went on his journey and my grandfather walked on home. He said "Nokos omv" probably had something to do with the gun jamming since it was threatened. This happened north of Turner Mountain just behind the Eufaula Dormitory in the 1940's.*

## Teaching Creek inspires Eufaula resident

*published by the Muskogee Daily Phoenix on Sept. 6*

EUFULA — Most everyone agrees that one of the most important necessities to having a culture is having a language. However, not everyone is willing to put the time and effort into learning their language. Such is not true of Millie Jean Colbert, who not only speaks Creek fluently, but also teaches the language to people of all ages from a headstart level up to one of the largest universities in the state.

She began teaching the language in 1979 in a preschool class in Eufaula. Later, when she attended Bacone College, one of the instructors at the school asked her to teach the language at the college. She had two students, one of whom was Navajo.

"I asked him if he knew the Navajo language," said Colbert. "He said nah, I just want to learn someone else's language."

Since then, Colbert has taught the Creek language in headstart classes across eastern Oklahoma and even at the University of Oklahoma.

Colbert said American Indians taking a native language in college can both earn foreign language credit and recapture part of their heritage that may, without help from their generation, be lost.

"If they can learn their language, it may be a lot easier for them," she said. "A lot of the languages are not there for many of the tribes anymore, so we're trying to keep ours alive. There's a lot of tribes that their language is gone. A lot of their elders were never approached to teach the language. That's the main thing we want to do is preserve the language. We want to

keep it current, keep it alive, to where it's spoken generation after generation."

Phyllis Fife, director of the Center for Tribal Studies at Northeast State University in Tahlequah, said Colbert's work is very important to preserving the language.

"There are many languages that are becoming extinct on an annual basis," Fife said. "It's important to preserve the languages. It's important not just for humanity, but for human knowledge. In learning about the languages we have a deeper understanding of cultures."

Fife said teaching the languages at colleges is a good way to revitalize them. "It's not important just for diversity," she said. "But for Indian people themselves to have another opportunity to learn their own language."

Colbert credits her grandmother with helping her learn the language when she was very young. She said she would sit in a corner and listen to her family speak to each other in Creek when her uncles and other family would come over. "I understood the stories they would tell, the lies they would tell," she joked.

The method by which she teaches involves first teaching the phonetic spelling, then the Creek spelling of the word.

"The way I teach I want to get into vowels and consonants, one and two syllable words," she said. "Then combine words to form sentences, then on to animals, foods, etc."

## Little Brother of War; the Creek's version of mortal combat

*by Joshua Slane*

Anxiety, exhilaration, fear, power, pain, triumph, and finally, exaltation. The Little Brother of War brings all of these things to its participants. But what is Little Brother of War?

If you said marriage, I'm going to remind you I said little brother, not big brother. Instead the correct answer is Stick Ball. Stick ball is a sport traditionally played before or after a stomp dance to help settle disputes or as the grounds prepare to close for the winter.

Stick ball, shockingly enough, is played with two sticks per player and a ball. The sticks, traditionally hand carved hickory, are approximately 3 and a half feet long with a cup shape on one end that's made for holding the ball. The ball, made of animal skin, is tough and slightly smaller than a tennis ball.

After this point, the game varies depending on if the game is a social game between men and women or is played between the grounds themselves.

If played with 2 grounds opposing each other, one ground is designated as the Rising Sun, or East, while the other is designated as the Setting Sun, or West. The ball field resembles a football field with two posts at either end. The object is to get the ball through the posts either by carrying it

or by throwing it.

As in most sports, this is far harder than it sounds. First, players are not allowed to touch the ball with their hands, making even the simple act of picking it up off the ground difficult. Secondly, tackling, and wrestling are permitted, even encouraged. Third, is the man to man style of defense. At this point, some injuries may occur. To keep things fair, if a person is injured, the person guarding him leaves the game as well.

Fans of stick ball love to get involved in the matches, not with sticks of their own, but by calling out for the team they support. It's customary to call for a team but not for individual players strengthening the team bond.

After the game, the winners gather around their goal posts and sing their victory song, hitting their sticks together.

The social game is slightly different and less dangerous,



in some aspects at least. The women are allowed to use their hands, while the men are still stuck using their sticks. This provides the women a sizable advantage in ball control, maneuverability, and the ability to hide the ball. Also, the women may tackle the men without fear of reprisal.

The final difference is in scoring. To score, players must hit what is traditionally a skull or a painted fish atop a tall pole.

This game, while being enjoyable in and of itself, helped keep the people prepared and ready for warfare. It's violent nature and hard competition forced athletes to remain in good shape. By using the sticks taught skill, while being denied use of their hands, taught players to use their whole body as a weapon. Being hit and tackled helped one learn to dodge and to suck it up when a dodge failed. Throwing the ball to hit the target helped teach accuracy and precision over brute force. Playing as a team taught team work, even in the face of adversity.

I'm sure many people today would say that stick ball is too violent a sport and should be toned down. It is quite possible that one of your ancestors owed his life to the skills gained during this game. It's certainly something to think about.



## Church Events

### Church Revival

OKMULGEE — Belvin Baptist Church will be having a revival October 17 thru 20 starting at 7 p.m. The Evangelist is Charlie Denney.

The church is located at 310 N. Mission.

### Green Country Area Crusade

TULSA — The Green Country Area Crusade will be held October 18 thru 22 at 7:30 p.m. nightly.

The crusade will be held at Living Hope Baptist Church at 24 S. Rosedale.

They will have a teaching nursery-preschool, counseling, children's service, Green Country Indian Church Choir and Youth night.

Evangelist will be Richard Pickup and music leader will be Van Samuels.

For more information you may call 918-592-0970 and it is sponsored by the Green Country Southern Baptist American Indian Churches.

### Mini Revival

BIXBY — Snake Creek Indian Baptist Church will be having a mini revival Oct. 22 thru 24.

The revival begins at 7 p.m. nightly.

The evangelist will be Reverend Ed Ethridge of Direct North Texas Baptist Association.

### Halloween Party

OKEMAH — Springfield Methodist Church is having a Halloween Party Oct. 24 with activities starting at 3 p.m.

Activities include: Costume contests; cake walk; musical chairs; and box supper auction.

The church is located two miles south on Highway 27, four mile east and then two miles south.

### 3rd Annual Lock-In

SEMINOLE — New Creation's 3rd Annual Lock-In will be held October 29 from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m. at Mekusukey Mission Gym.

There will be free fun, games, sports, Christian Band Music and food. The lock-in is youth oriented but everyone welcome with adult supervision and security patrolling the area.

For more information contact Helen or Phillip Harrison at 405-382-6905 and sponsored by the New Creation's Youth/Young Adult Fellowship c/o Little River Full Gospel Mission Church.

### 2nd Annual Lock-In

HENRYETTA — Hickory Ground #1 Indian Baptist Church will be having their Second Annual Lock-In on October 29 from 7:30 p.m. until 7 a.m.

There will be fun games, skits, Bible jeopardy, Christian Music, food, and a movie shown

## National Conference on Native American Spirituality to be held

MUSKOGEE — The National Conference on Native American Spirituality will be held at Bacone College November 11th thru 13th.

The conference will have a variety of workshops that include: Traditional Medicine; Native Art; Indian Music and Dance; Indigenous Crafts; Native Worship; Ritual and Ceremonies.

Conference hosts include Dr. Michael J. Christensen, Director, Doctor of Ministry Program, Drew University and Rev. Dr. Robert J. Duncan, Jr. President, Bacone College.

There will also be cultural visits to the Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Three Rivers Museum and Ataloa Lodge Museum.

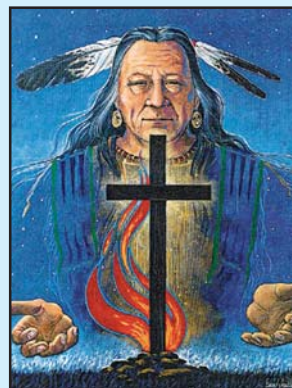
The cost for lodging at the Bacone College Inn and Conference Center is \$45 per night for single/

double and includes a continental breakfast for those staying at the Inn. The cost for meals is \$50 for 11th dinner, 12th lunch, 12th dinner and 13th lunch. The Continuing Education Fee is \$195. The program fee is included in tuition for DMIN students.

DMIN student should register for [CONCD 900 002] on [www.drew.edu/registrar](http://www.drew.edu/registrar). All other should register on [www.bacone.edu](http://www.bacone.edu).

For lodging reservations contact, Bacone Inn and Conference Center, 2360 E. Shawnee Rd. at 1-800-783-0103.

For more information on the conference, log on to [www.bacone.edu](http://www.bacone.edu) or [www.drew.edu/theo/dmin](http://www.drew.edu/theo/dmin). You may also contact Rev. Leroy W. Thompson, Director of Conferences & Retreats and Adjunct Instructor in Religion at 918-781-6286.



theatre style. Youth and adults are invited to come enjoy the activities.

The church is located from the junction of Main Street and Lake Road in Henryetta, go south 4 1/4 miles, then the road will curve and go east 2 1/2 miles to Salem Baptist Church, then go south approximately 3 1/2 miles and this road will curve eastward to the Hickory Ground #1 Indian Baptist Church sign. For more information, contact Lucas Taylor at (918) 650-0388.

### Gospel Singing

WELEETKA — Alabama Indian Baptist Church will be having a gospel singing October 30.

The singing will begin at 6 p.m. All groups welcome. Concession will be available.

The church is located from Highway 75 to south end of Weleetka then north on Clearview road one mile.

### 25th Annual Gospel Singing

HANNA — Trenton Baptist Church will be having their 25th Annual Gospel Singing on October 30 at 7 p.m. The emcee will be The Gospel Lights. All singers and listeners welcome.

The church is located four miles west of Hanna.

### Veteran's Day Celebration

BIXBY — Snake Creek Indian Baptist Church will be having a Tenth Annual Veteran's Day Celebration November 6 at 6 p.m. until everyone leaves.

All veterans and non-veterans welcome this year honoring "Gold Star Mothers." Refreshments will be served.

### Memorial Gospel Singing

HENRYETTA — Billy Joe Harjo Memorial

Gospel Singing will be held November 6 at Little Cussetah Indian United Methodist Church.

The singing will begin at 7 p.m. and the emcee will be Herb Billy of The Gospel Lights.

Concession will be available and all singers and listeners welcome.

The church is located from Highway 75 north of Henryetta and south of Okmulgee, take the Wilson Road turn off going west (under railroad tracks), at the first four way stop, turn north and go one mile. The church is on the west side of the road.

### Church Revival

WETUMKA — Tookparfka Baptist Church will be having a revival November 7 thru 10.

Sunday morning service begins at 11 a.m., Sunday evening service begins at 6 p.m. and Monday thru Wednesday service begins at 7 p.m. nightly.

The evangelist will be Earnest Best. Everyone welcome.

The church is located five miles south of Horntown on Highway 75 & 3 1/4 miles east.

### Veteran's Gospel Singing

SEMINOLE — Little River Full Gospel Mission Church is holding a Veteran's Gospel Singing November 13 at 7 p.m.

The emcee will be Larry Harrison with Lively Stones. All groups, solos and listeners welcome.

The church is located west on Highway 9 from Seminole State College, go to Little River Mission sign then turn south and go to the "T" intersection, then turn west and follow road to church. Signs will be posted.

For more information contact Larry, Helen or Phillip Harrison at 405-382-6905.



## Society

continued from page 4

serving as Pastor of Bemo Indian Baptist Church.

Rev. Doyle retired from the Jimmie Jones welding supply company in 1975 after 25 years of service. Nora is a homemaker.

The Doyles have one daughter, Verbea Coulter of Portland, Oregon and one son, James Doyle of Tulsa. There is 12 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. The event was hosted by the members of the Womens Missionary Union Indian Fellowship Baptist Church.

### Citizen advances to Indian Nation Finals Rodeo

SABOBA, CA— William Fish of Wellston has made it to the Indian Nation Finals Rodeo in Saboba, California on Oct. 21–24.

William is a graduate of Wellston high school. He is currently employed with Evans and Associates.

There will be tribes from all over the United States and Canada gathering in California to see to who will be the National Champion. There are 13 regions divided through the United States that consist of many different tribes, William represents the Choctaw Nation All Indian Rodeo Association, known as region 8 of Oklahoma. He is one of the top two contestants in the bullriding, who will compete against the top two in 12 other regions.

William is the son of life long resident of Harrah, Tony Fish and Betty Fields of Tulsa.

### Re/Max names Benham chief operating officer

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO — Bruce Benham has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer at Re/Max International. During his 12 years with Re/Max International, Bruce has served as Director of Information Services, Vice President of Information Technology and most recently was Senior Vice President, Chief Technology Officer.

"Bruce is an amazing individual," commented Marga-

ret Kelly, Re/Max president. "Besides a very savvy businessman, he epitomizes the Will Rogers philosophy of I've never met a stranger." Anyone who has ever met or worked with him truly admires him. Re/Max continues to experience record setting growth and we are fortunate that Bruce is always eager to take on new challenges."

Benham was instrumental in developing support software, services and technology to meet the present and future needs of the Re/Max system, all while fulfilling his duties as senior officer in charge of Re/Max satellite Network, approved supplier programs and Corporate Training. He was honored in 2001 with the first ever CIO of the year award from the center for information technology innovation (CITI), a center at the business school of the University of Colorado at Denver. In 2004, he received the Re/Max International Distinguished Service Award, the most prestigious recognition in the organization. He earned a certified computing professional designation in 1997 and has participated in extensive advanced technical, managerial and leadership training programs.

As Chief Operating Officer, Benham will oversee the operations of approved suppliers, communications, community affairs, conventions, human resources, information technology, re/max satellite network and training.



Benham

### Root joins RBC Mortgage Banker

TULSA — Frances Root joined RBC Mortgage on Sept. 1 as a loan officer specializing in Emerging Markets. Emerging Markets ensures, in each community RBC Mortgages serves, that the company utilizes all local and federal programs to better serve the mortgage needs of our service area. RBC Mortgage is an approved Section 184 lender, and has programs written under the My Community federal guidelines.

Frances will develop relationships with various tribal and community housing authorities throughout Oklahoma. She will serve as a liaison between the various entities, the customer and RBC Mortgage, to assist individuals in achieving home ownership.

Frances comes to RBC Mortgage from the Tulsa Housing Authority

(THA), where she served as the Home Ownership Coordinator working with low to moderate income individual, Section 8 housing vouchers, and implementing down payment and closing cost as-

sistance for first time home buyers. Through THA, Frances provided homebuyer education for their home ownership programs.

Prior to serving with THA, Frances was the senior loan officer with the Creek Nation Housing Authority mortgage assistance program. In this capacity, she and the CNHA were able to provide housing assistance to over 100 families.

Root's career started in banking in 1984 as a loan operations supervisor. Her interest shifted to mortgage lending soon afterwards and she set a path on education to achieve her goals. She began taking night classes that same year.

Her educational experience includes the following: B.A. Business Management, Bacone College; A.A. Liberal Arts, TCC; Indian Housing Specialist in Homebuyer Education, Salish Kootenai College; Prep Real Estate school; Oklahoma Certified Homebuyer Education Professional; AHECTI Certified Homebuyer Education Counselor; Certified Development Finance Professional; and National Association of Professional Mortgage Women, Graduate of Mortgage Lending. She is currently working on her Masters of Human Relations degree through the University of Oklahoma. She plans to graduate in 2005.

In addition to education achievements, Frances has involved herself in various volunteer programs: Native American Predatory Lending Task Force Committee; United Way; and current chair for the Johnson O'Malley Indian Education program for the Bristow public schools.

Frances is a member of the Bear clan and a lifelong resident of Bristow. She believes the American dream of homeownership is obtainable for all citizens. She has demonstrated her desire of this goal through commitment to education, the community and the positions she has held and holds today with RBC Mortgage.

If you have any questions about homeownership, please call Frances at (918) 249-8400, ext. 231.

### California Creek Association to hold meeting

LOS ANGELES — The California Muscogee (Creek) Association will be holding a special meeting on Nov. 6.

Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, Mike Flud, Deputy Director of Human Services, Della Cherry, Deputy Director of Community Services, Roberta Haney, Citizenship Manager and Channena Davis, Higher Education Manager will be the special guests at this meeting.

The California Muscogee (Creek) Association serves as a cultural gathering center for new generations of Creek people in California. The association also serves as a clearing house for Muscogee families seeking services within the state of California. They offer language workshops, genealogy classes, story telling, monthly pot luck meetings and much more. The goal of the association is to keep Creek traditions alive and to connect families that have long been separated.

For more information, contact Eli Grayson at 310-487-7706.



Root



Fish



# RBC Mortgage

**RBC Mortgage**

**Contact: Frances Root, GML**

Frances.root@rbc.com

Phone: 918-249-8400 Ext. 231

Fax: 918-249-0877

8282 S. Memorial Suite 100

Tulsa, OK 74133

- Emerging Markets
- Section 184 loans
- FHA-VA
- Loans for Less-Than-Perfect Credit



## Okmulgee District representative to update citizens

OKMULGEE — We are now into our tenth month of 2004. The months have come and gone so fast and as a newly elected representative there is still so much to learn. We are a big tribal government with many citizens to serve.

Just recently I was asked "Has it been everything you thought it would be?" My reply was no! Before I was elected, I had worked for the tribe since 1976 in various departments from the Division of Health to the Administration. I felt I knew the internal process of the Administration, but nothing prepares you for the government unless you become an elected official of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. There is so much to learn about our government. I know that two years will not be enough time for any new representative to school themselves totally about our government. We are armed with Codification Laws, The Constitution, council policy and procedures, NIGC regulations, housing IHP, tribal policy and procedures and many other regulations that we have to adhere to. It is in this position that you get to really know what makes this tribal government work. This has been one of the most rewarding times of my life. I have been blessed and honored to have served in this capacity and it is an experience that I can share with my grandchildren.

The position of National Council Representative carries a great responsibility. You get out



of it what you put into it. The responsibility of educating yourself about tribal programs can become an everyday duty. Realizing that we do not satisfy every constituent, but the satisfaction comes when you can assist programs that will reach out to serve more tribal citizens, not only in your district, but others as well.

The standing committee that I serve on is Business and Governmental. I also serve on the Internal Affairs Committee and I am an alternate for the Constitution Committee and Fact Finding committee. I was selected recently to serve as ex-officio for the Gaming Operations Authority Board. Aside from these committees that I serve on, I try to attend the other standing committee meetings just to keep on top of legislation coming out of those committees.

What I see as an elected official is the need to reduce the size of the council representatives and see them hired as full time. This government is growing and there are critical issues that we have to deal with nearly every day. In order to serve this nation to best of our ability and give our undivided attention, this must happen. The terms of our council representative must increase to at least four year terms. Two years is not enough time to give to this government.

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to serve this great nation.

Rita Williams, Okmulgee District Representative Seat D

## Questions continued from page 8

is returned to the trust fund. This measure would only become effective if voters approved the lottery contained in House Bill No. 1278 (State Question 705).

### STATE QUESTION NO. 707

This measure amends Section 6C of Article 10 of the Oklahoma Constitution. The amendment deals with the use of certain city, town, and county taxes and fees. When authorized by law, cities, towns or counties can put these taxes and fees to use in three ways. The first use is specific public investments. The second use is aid in development financing. The third use is an income source for other public bodies in the area.

The legislature can authorize cities, towns and countries to direct the apportionment of these fees and taxes among or between these uses. The amendment allows these apportionments to be prospective. The amendment permits these apportionments to continue from year to year.

The amendment permits cities, towns and countries to pledge certain taxes and fees beyond the current fiscal year and to pledge certain taxes and fees to repay some debts of other public entities.

### STATE QUESTION NO. 708

This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It amends Section 23 of Article 10. This section involves the Constitutional Reserve Fund also known as the Rainy Day Fund. This measure changes the amount which would be spent from the Rainy Day Fund. The State Board of Equalization would decide if the taxes the state collects each fiscal year will be less than predicted. This is called revenue failure. If this happens, up to three-eighths (3/8) of the Rainy Day Fund could be spent. The total amount spent from the Rainy Day Fund for revenue failure could not exceed the amount of the funds shortage predicted by the State Board of Equalization. The Rainy Day Fund can be used now if the prediction about state tax collections for the current year is less than the prediction made the year before. One-half of the Fund can be spent now if this occurs. If this measure passes, the amount would change to three-eighths. Money can now be spent from the Fund for certain emergencies. One-half of the fund can now be spent for these emergencies. This measure would change that amount to one quarter.

### STATE QUESTION NO. 711

This measure adds a new section of law to the Constitution. It adds Section 35 to Article 2. It defines marriage to be between one man and one woman. It prohibits giving the benefits of marriage to people who are not married. It provides that same sex marriages in other states are not valid in this state. It makes issuing a marriage license in violation of this section a misdemeanor.

### STATE QUESTION NO. 712

This measure enacts the State-Tribal Gaming Act. The Act contains a Model Tribal Gaming Compact. Indian tribes that agree to the Compact can use new types of gaming machines. These machines are used for gambling. Compacting tribes could also offer some card games.

If at least four Indian tribes enter into the Compact, three State licensed racetracks could use the same electronic gaming machines.

The Act limits the number of gaming machines racetracks can use. The Act does not limit the number of machines that Indian tribes can use.

The State Horse Racing Commission would regulate machine gaming at racetracks. A tribal agency would regulate authorized gaming by a tribe. The Office of State Finance would monitor authorized tribal gambling.

Proceeds from authorized gaming at racetrack go to:

the racetracks, the owners of winning horses, horsemen's organizations, breed organization, and the State to be used for educational purposes.

Some of the proceeds from authorized gaming by Indian tribes goes to the State. The State would use these proceeds for educational purposes and compulsive gambling programs.

### STATE QUESTION NO. 713

The measure ends tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products. The measure places a new tax on cigarettes. This tax will be four cents per cigarette. The measure places a new tax on other tobacco products. These taxes begin January 1, 2005.

A committee is created to recommend rules regarding tobacco product taxes.

The measure makes several income tax changes. It makes the highest Method One individual income tax rate 6.65%. It increases the amount of certain retirement benefits not subject to income tax. It allows certain capital gain of an individual to not be subject to income tax.

The measure sets maximum income level for individuals making claims under the Sales Tax Relief Act. The measure makes other changes.

### STATE QUESTION NO. 714

This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It amends Section 8C of Article 10. This measure changes the method for determining the fair cash value of the homestead of certain heads of household. The change only applies to heads of household who meet two requirements. First, they must be at least 65 years old.

Second, their gross household income must meet income level requirements.

This measure changes the income level requirement. At present, to be eligible, the gross household income from all sources must be \$25,000 or below. The amendment changes the qualifying income level. To be eligible under the change, gross household income cannot exceed the area's mean income levels for counties and metropolitan areas. The State Tax Commission must inform each county assessor of the established mean income levels each year.

### STATE QUESTION NO. 715

This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It adds a new section to Article 10. The new section is Section 8E. The measure creates an exemption from property tax. The exemption would apply to certain injured veterans. The exemption would also apply to veterans' surviving spouses. The exemption would be for the full fair cash value of the homestead. To qualify for the exemption an injured veteran would have to meet several requirements. First, the veteran must have been honorably discharged from a branch of the Armed Forces or the Oklahoma National Guard. Second, the veteran would have to be a State resident. Third, the veteran would have to have a 100% permanent disability. Fourth, the disability would have to have been sustained through military action or accident, or result from a disease contracted while in active service. Fifth, the disability would have to be certified by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Finally, the veteran would have to be otherwise qualified for homestead exemption. The exemption can be claimed beginning January 1, 2006.



Division of Health

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health is looking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

- Pediatric Dentist - Okmulgee Health Center
- Chief Financial Officer
- Public Health Nurse - Okmulgee
- LPN - Okmulgee (Temporary)
- Interviewer Consultant - Tobacco Prevention
- Health System Administrator - Okmulgee
- Head Cook - Muskogee
- Nurse Practitioner - Okmulgee
- Billing Technician - Okmulgee
- Coding Specialist - CNCH
- Behavioral Health Clinician - BHS
- Pharmacist-Eufaula (Part Time)
- Billing Technician-Eufaula
- CHR Generalist - Okmulgee
- Nurse Practitioner - Eufaula
- Van Driver - Bristow - ENP (Part time)
- Van Driver - Eufaula - ENP (Part time)
- Van Driver - Coweta - ENP (Part time)
- Van Driver - Holdenville - ENP (Part time)
- Van Driver - Muskogee - ENP (Part time)
- Van Driver - Okemah - ENP (Part time)
- Van Driver - Sapulpa - ENP (Part time)
- Van Driver - Twin Hills - ENP (Part time)
- Van Driver - Weleetka - ENP (Part time)
- Van Driver - Wetumka - ENP (Part time)

For more information call 756-3334 or visit their website at [www.muscogeehealth.org](http://www.muscogeehealth.org).

Trade and Commerce

Trade and Commerce is accepting applications for the travel plazas in Okmulgee and Muskogee, Muskogee Document Imaging and Farm Authority. To apply, come by the office or download the

PDF format at [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov), clicking on the link to personnel, then clicking on the link to MCN Trade and Commerce.

Mail your applications to:  
Muscogee Creek Nation Trade and Commerce  
P.O. Box 117  
1010 East Eufaula  
Okmulgee, OK. 74447  
For more information please contact Alexis Crosley at 732-7764.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Personnel

Housing Authority Deputy Director:  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
Qualifications: Bachelor's degree from a four year college or university and three to five years related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Gaming Commissioner:  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services.  
Qualifications: Preferred requirements include a Bachelors Degree with business or management experience with an understanding of business and regulatory concepts. Minimum requirements include a Bachelors Degree in business with two years experience. Must possess a valid drivers licence. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Construction Engineer:  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Construction.  
Qualifications: Masters Degree in Civil Engineering is preferred. Minimum requirements include a Bachelors Degree with knowledge of architectural and engineering functions for the purpose of planning, organizing, direction, and controlling the procedures and standards necessary to accomplish the mission of developing and maintaining a safe and structural and sound working environment. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Day Custodian  
Muscogee BIA Building, Okmulgee.  
Qualifications: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Bus Driver / Maintenance (part time):  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Haskell Head Start.  
Qualifications: Must have a high school diploma

or equivalent. Must obtain an Oklahoma Bus Drivers Certificate, CDL, CPR, and First Aide Certificate. Must possess a valid drivers license and good driving record. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks and drug testing.

Lighthorse Chief:  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Administration  
Qualifications: The Lighthorse Chief must have a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice plus fifteen credit hours towards a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice and ten years or experience in law enforcement, with a preference for federal or tribal law enforcement experience. The ten years experience in law enforcement shall also include at least two years of administrative experience. Each Lighthorse Chief Candidate shall submit to a background investigation conducted by or obtained by the attorney General's Office who will then submit the information to the Principal Chief prior to nomination. The candidate must be Cleet certified. Preference will be given to Creek citizens and then members of federally recognized Indian tribes.

Teacher's Aide (part time):  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Yeager Head Start  
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent . Must have knowledge and experience with Indian interpersonal relationships, previous experience in Early Childhood or Child Development in dealing with children. CDA or Associates Degree in Early Childhood preferred. Must submit to and pass all necessary drug tests and background checks.

Legislative Clerk IV:  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council  
Must have a high school diploma or equivalent with a working knowledge of Parliamentary Law, Word Perfect, Lotus, File Magic, and Data Base Programs. Knowledge of Grammar, Spelling, punctuation, and format. Ability to take minutes and notes for Committee approval. Must possess a valid drivers license. Must submit to and pass all necessary background checks.

All jobs going through Personnel have Indian Preference. For more information on any of these jobs, or to apply please write to: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Personnel Services, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Ok. 74447. Or e-mail at [jillsmith@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:jillsmith@muscogeenation-nsn.gov) or call at 732-7827.

*JOB ADVERTISEMENTS: The MNN is accepting job advertisements to run in the newspaper. If you or your company would like to advertise any openings, please contact call 732-7637 for information on rates or to place your ad.*



## Muscogee Document Imaging Company provides document storage and imaging services

OKMULGEE—The Muscogee Document Imaging Company is certified in the State of California as a Minority Business Enterprise, as well as being a certified HUB Zone Small Business Concern. The company's Small Business Administration 8(a) is pending certification. With these certifications, MDIC has secured federal proposed contracts pending notification of award.

MDIC provides a list of services that's in demand in the business world today. The company provides courier service (within a 50 mile radius) from the customer's facilities. This means that MDIC will pick up your documents as is and transport them to their facilities. The documents are then removed from the original containers, inventoried and

placed in standard storage containers. These documents can be stored, digitally

imaged or both, in a climate controlled environment.

MDIC stores documents for at least seven years or longer if needed. Should the customer decide they want their documents imaged, MDIC can also provide indexing to help with the searching for specific documents. This search criterion may be provided by the customer or by MDIC depending on the nature of the documents and the usage needed by the customer.

MDIC can provide digital images of documents, records, maps, engineering drawings, photos, negatives or slides, microfiche, books, or other bound items. Once the documents have been digitally imaged, MDIC is able to provide the customer with the complete access to their document 24 hours a day. These documents can be accessed by a CD Rom or through a secured internet web server. Firewalls, Secure Socket Layer (SSL) technology and access management ensure that only authorized personnel are able to view their records.

Should your business require document destruction, MDIC also provides these services. MDIC provides environmentally sound destruction of documents and records. Documents are shredded for confidentiality purposes. Documents are not burned or dumped into landfills.

MDIC is located in Okmulgee at 1010 East Eufaula Street. For more information please contact the Muscogee Document Imaging Company at their toll free number 1 (800) 482-1979, ext. 7760 or at (918) 732-7760 or visit their website at [www.muscogeedocumentimaging.com](http://www.muscogeedocumentimaging.com).



## Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise receives multiple awards

OKMULGEE—The Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE), the Federal Contracting company of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, were awarded contracts in Construction Services, Fire and Security and Information Technology Professional Services in Sept.

New contract awards were secured at Altus Air Force Base, Department of Energy BWXT Pantex facility and at US Army Medical Command in San Antonio.

The National Council passed the legislation for the 40 acre development north of the tribal complex during the recent extraordinary session held last week. MNBE construction staff will be performing Construction Management services on this project.

MNBE Construction Services Division is utilizing MNBE Fire & Security for current fire detection work at Altus Air Force Base. Department

of Energy awarded MNBE two sole-source contracts for fire detection projects at the Nuclear Facility in Amarillo, Texas.

MNBE's Information Technology division was awarded in Professional Services to support the U.S. Army Medical Command. MNBE's Board ap-

proved a Teaming Agreement between MNBE and Powernet. This new partnership offers an expanded scope of solutions to government and corporations seeking a full service (design build) diversity supplier for their critical systems infrastructure requirements. The teaming agreement will allow MNBE to provide equipment and turnkey EF&I (engineer, furnish and install)

services, specializing in power quality, CHP, CCHP and integrated battery free applications. MNBE is becoming certified to provide all of their services to Sprint and to SBC Global.



Second Chief Berryhill signs \$1.8 million delivery order award for Altus Air Force Base.

## Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Cherokee Nation combine new business venture

MUSKOGEE—For the first time ever the Creek and Cherokee Nations are teaming up for a business venture pursuing call center contracts. Both Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Cherokee Connects, a majority-owned Cherokee Business, are in the call center contracting business, but the signing of a teaming agreement between the two entities will help them both.

"Instead of competing against each other, we have created a stronger business team that will be able to generate a lot more revenue than we would have if we had been working separately", said Chad Smith Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. "At the end of the day, we'll all come out ahead."

"Chief Smith has talked to me many times about becoming partners," said Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, "We realize that the impact that the two nations could have on Muskogee, Tulsa and this part of Oklahoma could be huge. I think the economy, not only for the two nations, but the economy of this area will improve immensely."

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has created business advantages by attaining preferential 8(a) contracting status through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Cherokee Connects brings years of experience in the call center industry to the table. The Cherokee/ Creek teaming agreement enhances the competitive strengths of both the Chero-

kees and the Creeks.

"Together, we have much more power in the market place than by ourselves," said Ron Gates, President of Cherokee Connects. "We are going to be cooperating rather than competing."

"This is a great opportunity for our tribal business to use the power of our tribes to benefit our citizens and diversity our business base" said Michael Nalley, Director of MNBE.

"Business and nations come together for a cause, for a reason," Smith said. "The reason for this teaming agreement is that we have the same goals, to create jobs and bring economic prosperity to north-eastern Oklahoma."

Principal Chiefs Ellis and Smith signed a document memorializing the teaming agreement in Muskogee. Smith said it speaks to

the greater bond between the two nations. "We've been political allies since the Trail of Tears, lived under the same federal regimes. Of all the tribes here, we have the closest bonds with the Creeks."

Muskogee was a natural place for the announcement, located between Tahlequah, the capital of the Cherokee Nation, and Okmulgee, the capital of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Creek and Cherokee border runs northeast to southwest through Muskogee.



Michael Nalley, right, explains the enormous potential of this business venture to Chief Ellis, left, and Cherokee Chief Chad Smith.



# Spotlight

*"Veterans, the answer will always be no if you do not seek or ask." — Ken Davis*

## Bridging the gap for our veterans

by Gerald Wofford

It has always been a top priority of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to serve its citizens to the best of its ability. The Elderly Nutrition Center, Children and Family Services and Housing Development are fine examples of this statement. However, Principal Chief A.D. Ellis felt their was one important group that might just have been overlooked, the military veterans of the tribe. So Chief Ellis created an office and selected a spokesman to serve our veterans. Ken Davis is that person looking to serve our tribal veterans.

"It has been a high priority of mine to establish a Veterans office since I was Second Chief," says Ellis. "Our tribe has a lot of men and women that have served honorably, proudly, and bravely. We will do all we can to help our veterans receive the services and benefits guaranteed to them."

Davis is the director of the newly created Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office. Davis is a former Major in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. Major Davis served on active duty from 1981 to 1985 and the Marine Reserves from 1987 to 1993. Davis is a combat veteran of the war for Kuwait in 1991. During his combat duty Davis was a Platoon Commander for antitank missiles (TOW). "Leading Marines in combat was and is the highest honor I will ever have," says Davis. "I will always remember and revere their sacrifices and courage."

Davis is a military man through and through and looks at the new department as a good challenge. Davis even moved his family from Grove, located in far northeast Oklahoma, to be more committed.

"First," states Davis, "mission assigned. The mission of the Muscogee Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office is to assist in the planning, organizing, submission, tracking/monitoring, and fulfillment of the Muscogee Veteran's administrative requirements and evidence needed documentation for benefits rendered through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs."

As mentioned earlier, Davis is a military man through and through, realized the need for an office to assist Muscogee (Creek) Veterans who sometimes do not always look for help and services. Davis said he has noticed this characteristic in veterans, especially right after they have fulfilled their terms in the military. He describes it as a lack of knowledge and understanding of what they (veterans) have secured through their service to our country.

"I remember before leaving for both active duty and the reserves the lack of information that was passed to me," says Davis. "And more importantly, my men, about what exactly we rated through our service. In all, United States

Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and services available to us was a mystery. Secondly, veterans are somewhat reluctant to ask."

It is the reluctance of veterans to seek help that somewhat bothers Davis. "Veterans, the answer will always be no if you do not seek or ask," says Davis. "It is very important to note what has been set aside from a grateful country and the State of Oklahoma is not, I repeat, is not, to be considered by Muscogee veterans and all veterans as an entitlement, grant, or give away. Everything that is available to Muscogee veterans has been earned! Muscogee veterans, you

have earned and secured benefits through your blood, sweat, and tears in honorable service to our great and appreciative country and the State of Oklahoma."

Davis is dedicated to seeing that Creek Veterans get attention and their just benefits. Some of those benefits include: disability benefits, education and training benefits, and vocational rehabilitation and employment as well. Davis also looks at home loans, dependent's and survivor's benefits, life insurance and overall health care as being part of the care and service to veterans of the tribe.

One important benefit that Davis is looking closely at right now is burial assistance. Burial assistance in the sense of making sure a female veteran of the tribe who died long ago is given a proper head stone. "For our past veterans, we need a permanent honor roll with all of their military particulars and a cemetery headstone provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs honoring their service, if their families have not already secured one," says Davis. "For our present veterans, we need to prepare them for their return to civilian life and assist them in securing the benefits and services they have earned due to their honorable and courageous service."

Davis says he has had nothing but 100% support from the US Department of Veterans Affairs and the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. Davis works as a liaison solely through the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs in Muskogee.

One act of present service that Davis is definitely preparing for is care packages to Creek military personnel serving in the Middle East.

"On or about November 10 of this year, this office will begin shipping care packages directly from our tribe to our Muscogee citizens in the military stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan," says Davis. "The care packages will contain nonperishable food items and reading literature. I ask the families and Creek communities of military personnel on duty in Iraq or Afghanistan to please contact me with the name, rank, unit, and overseas military mailing address so this office can prepare, pack, and send the care packages to your loved ones stationed in war zones."



Director of Veterans Affairs Services Major Ken Davis  
photo by Gerald Wofford



## Shop talk with Gerald

Congratulations to area Creek athletes Samantha Tecumseh, Missy Fox and Mindy Chancey for helping their respective softball teams, Wilson, Oktaha and Henryetta High Schools have such a great season. Oktaha and Henryetta advanced to the state tournament this year. Both teams lost close games where they were in a position to win.

Nobody expected the Oklahoma State Cowboys football team to be doing as well as they have. Considering all the factors, it wasn't exactly an unwise conclusion. The Cowboys entered the season with redshirt freshman Donovan Woods at the helm. The rookie never did look back and made bold promises at the beginning of this year. "I expect us to be just as explosive and have the same big play capability," Woods said. "I don't look at the 2004 season as rebuilding. We're just adding some new parts. We expect the machine to run the same."

Down a little farther south, sooner land is embracing a time of truth in their football schedule. Oklahoma posted a 12-0 victory over the Texas Longhorns to make it five in a row. The Kansas State Wildcats, who beat OU in the Big 12 Championship game, will host the Sooners in Manhattan on Oct. 16. The number two team in the nation will also have to visit the Cowboys in Stillwater on Oct. 30.

The same could be said of the these Cowboys who go to Missouri on Oct., host the Sooners on Oct. 30, and travel to Austin to play the Longhorns on Nov. 4. The Dusty Dvoracek situation in Norman seemed to surprise some people in the media and the fans as well. After all, here was this year's Captain of the football team being suspended for some off the field indiscretions. The defensive line will miss him, especially during this month with opponents relying heavily on the running game.

Problems with any college athlete concerning a dismissal from the team is nothing to smile about. But on the other side, when has the University of Oklahoma not had problems with their athletes? That's not to say all Oklahoma athletes are bad, but remember in Coach Barry Switzer's tenure when he had problems with his players, such as Charles Thompson. Switzer was accused of running a renegade program by the national media when that certainly wasn't the case. Even the man that started the monster, Bud Wilkinson, had his troubles with athletes back in the day. The point is, college athletes will be college athletes and the need to bring down discipline like Oklahoma Coach Bob Stoops did. Even if it is with a team Captain.

Don't forget to get your team in the Second Annual Warriors Showcase Shootout Basketball Tournament. Creek Nation programs have showed thier support of our youth by helping fund this tournament. For more information, contact Lucas Taylor at (918) 732-7634 or visit our website at [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov). and go to upcoming events.

## MNN Athlete of the Month: Wilson Lady Tigers

WILSON — When nobody believes in you, the hard climb uphill can be that much harder. Take the Wilson Lady Tigers softball team for example. The Lady Tigers weren't expected to do very well at the beginning of this season.. But time has a way of changing things and it has for the Lady Tigers.

The girls from Wilson came out with a plan to make some noise in class B softball. The Lady Tigers were able to win their district by beating rival Canadian, run-ruling them not only once, but twice.

"People wrote us off," said first year Coach Rick Duncan, "but that was last year."

Duncan has coached at places

such as Ames, Boynton, Midway and Maud, winning state titles in both softball and basketball. Wilson holds a dear special place in Duncan's heart, he is a 1965 graduate of the school. Duncan admires the heavy Muscogee (Creek) influence that surrounds the tiny community that is so sports crazy.

The Lady Tigers finished the regular season at

15 wins and 11 losses, but played three number one teams ranked in their classes: Henryetta, Canadian, and Oktaha.

"About three-fourths of the girls that play on this team are of Creek descent," says Duncan. "To these girls, this is thier national sport."

Creek athletes that Duncan is really high on include: freshman pitcher, Samantha Tecumseh; catcher Marissa Bear; and first baseman, Christine Fischer. Bear and Tecumseh are cousins and grew up playing the sport.

Their season is over now, but the Wilson squad is a young team, only losing one player to

graduation. So that leaves all other players that will be returning next year with more wisdom and experience. At least that's what Coach Duncan is hoping for.

"There is a good future for softball at Wilson because there are so many young ones here," said Duncan.



The Wilson Lady Tigers are excited about the future of their softball program.  
photo by Gerald Wofford

## Littlebear's play for Sapulpa is very big

SAPULPA — His name may contain the word little, but this Muskogee (Creek) athlete's game is anything but little.

Martin Littlebear is a senior at Sapulpa High School and has seen his Chieftain ball team get off to a terrific start.

For the first time since 1994, the Sapulpa Chieftains began their season with three consecutive wins and no losses. This can be a very hard task being positioned in Class 6A, which is the biggest class among Oklahoma High Schools.

Littlebear sees action on both the defensive and offensive sides of the ball. When Sapulpa is moving the ball down the field, Littlebear helps open

the line as an offensive lineman for running backs, such as Dee Alexander. Running backs have been churning up the yardage for the Chieftains.

"He's done a real good job for us," says second year Head Coach Mike Hainzinger. "Everyone likes him. He's not only a good athlete, but he's a good student in the classroom as well."

On the defensive side, Littlebear takes care of business as a defensive end. Unfortunately, Littlebear is seeing some injured reserve time right now. A recent knee injury has him sidelined for a couple of weeks, but this Creek player, with the

little name, will be back on the playing field making big plays.



Sapulpa senior offensive linemen and defensive end Martin Littlebear, looks forward to playing again.  
photo by Gerald Wofford



## Opinion

continued from page 3

refer to the congregation as "tecakkeyate" (te-cak-ke-ya-te) "my brothers" and "cvtcostvlke" (cvt-cos-tvl-ke) "my sisters."

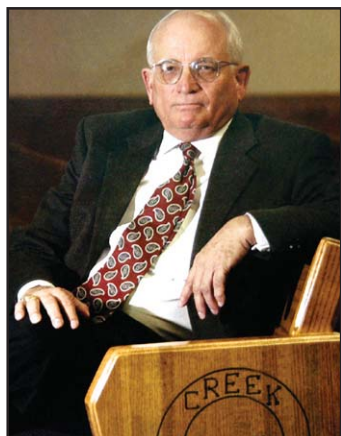
We were created as a family and we should try to get along with our brothers and sisters. One of the greatest commandments in the Bible is to "Love thy neighbor as thyself." What better way to do that knowing that we are a family? Even the word for cousin "cvnahvmke" (cv-na-hvm-ke) means "my one body".

We are attempting to review all policy and procedures to see how we can get better services to you and it's going to take a little while. I ask that you be a little more patient with us while we look at these policy and procedures. Right now there are a lot of policies that says "we can't" and we want to change that to "we can".  
*Mvto.*

## Mvskoke History Series

By  
Patrick E. Moore

Thousands of years ago, the *Mvskoke* traded extensively throughout what is now North America. They also traded with Native Americans from as far away as Central America. The *Mvskoke* traders traveled rivers, streams and the ocean by canoe (*Kenu* - a Taino word meaning a boat carved out of a tree. The *Taino* inhabited the Caribbean and were southern neighbors to the *Mvskoke Confederacy*. Early Europeans used the word canoe to describe long keelless boats used in *North &*



*South America, Mesoamerica and Circum-Caribbean* areas of the western hemisphere) and used footpaths for inland destinations. Their canoes were of varying size from a small two man vessel to the giant canoe with a huge cargo area powered by up to fifty *Mvskoke* crewman.

The *Mvskoke* constructed their largest cargo and ocean going canoes from giant cypress logs. The *Mvskoke* tradesman frequently traveled along the eastern ocean (Atlantic Ocean) shore line and the sea (Gulf of Mexico) to the south, as they engaged in commerce or war.

1790's Spanish warships made a practice of hijacking *Mvskoke* canoes on the ocean and inland on the larger rivers. These Spanish thieves commandeered *Mvskoke* property and trade goods. They sometimes destroyed the canoe and injured or killed *Mvskoke* crew members in the process.

By the early 1790's William Augustus Bowles, a one-time British Army Officer, veteran of the Revolutionary War, navigator and diplomat, was training *Mvskoke Warriors* in the art of war and navigation. Bowles was later to become the *Director General of the Creek Nation*.

Bowles refitted one of the largest *Mvskoke* canoes with a four-pounder cannon in the bow and cleverly disguised the cannon within a frame work resembling a cargo of deerskins. He then proceeded to practice war games at sea with a hand picked crew of battle tested *Mvskoke* soldiers.

Finally the day came to test this new *Mvskoke War Canoe*. General Bowles and crew entered the Gulf of Mexico, baiting Spanish warships, soon a many gunned cutter appeared. Bowles ordered his crew to fake an attempt escape as they had practiced. The *Mvskoke* crew paddled wildly toward the distant shore until the Spanish fired a shot over the *Mvskoke* and commanded them to halt.

The *Mvskoke* ceased paddling and turned their bow toward the Spanish cutter, that was in the process of lowering her sails. When the Spanish were dead in the water, the *Mvskoke* war canoe paddled closer, still pointing their bow directly at the cutter. When Spanish commander ordered them to come alongside his ship or be blown out of the water, Bowles crept ever closer and when within 100 yards Bowles uncovered the four-pounder and lit the fuse. The resulting blast and recoil moved the *Mvskoke* war canoe backward in the water. The Spanish cutter vibrated when the *Mvskoke* cannon ball hit amidships, wood flew and Spaniards dove for cover.

General Bowles, closing in on the cutter, ordered another shot and this cannon ball knocked the Spanish cutter's bow swivel gun out of commission, eliminating any further firing by the Spanish until they could make sail and turn broadside. *Mvskoke* oarsmen swiftly moved the disguised war canoe out of Spanish cannon range long and into a nearby river before the cutter could make sail. The damaged Spanish cutter then limped back to either New Orleans or Havana. Word of the *Mvskoke* war canoe spread quickly and seizure of *Mvskoke* trade goods ceased.

The late 1790's witnessed the *Mvskoke Navy* make its presence known from the Atlantic side of Florida into the Florida Keys and throughout the Gulf of Mexico to New Orleans. A well armed schooner, the Muscogee Micco commanded by Captain Richard Powers, sailing out of Nassau, Bahamas, appeared. This era of southeastern sea history was dominated by a *Mvskoke Nation* government that commissioned privateers (A ship owned and operated by a private person authorized by a nation to damage and/or capture the ships of an enemy by acts of warfare at sea.) to deal with hostile Spanish warships and galleons (Armed merchant ships used by Spain to explore and pillage of the Americas.), which were interrupting trade and profitable commerce with England, a nation friendly to the goals and ideals of the *Mvskoke Nation*.

Spanish naval vessels were in the habit of capturing *Mvskoke Nation* commercial ships flying the *Mvskoke Sun* (Flag of the *Mvskoke Nation*). This new *Mvskoke*

Navy initially captured a Spanish fishing boat, which became the Muscogee Tostenoke, which was then armed with cannon and sailed into the Gulf, with a Captain, Two Lieutenants and thirty man crew. Additional privateers were commissioned until the *Mvskoke Navy* controlled most offshore waters.

The *Mvskoke Nation* declared war on Spain and quickly attracted more privateers because a *Mvskoke Nation* privateer's commission or compensation was two-thirds of all bounty seized. The *Mvskoke Nation* only kept one-third of the plunder, the overall objective was to control trade and commerce in the southeast. *Mvskoke* privateers were of all nationalities, but most of the Captains were English.

The *Mvskoke Navy*, at sea, operated in wolf packs of three vessels. A wolf pack maneuvered Spanish merchant ships into shallow water where they were militarily overpowered and commandeered. The captured ship then escorted to the Apalachicola River, then upstream to *Mvskoke Nation* Naval headquarters, where captured cargos were divided in accordance with strict printed rules and regulations (Director General Bowles caused the *Mvskoke Nation* Admiralty Rules and Regulations to be published in the Bahama Gazette, February 7 - 11, 1800.) captured ships then armed and added to the *Mvskoke Navy*.

*Mvskoke Nation* cannon fortified high bluffs on each bank of the Apalachicola River preventing passage of hostile Spanish ships upstream. The *Mvskoke Nation* also organized and convened an Admiralty Court (A court that exercises jurisdiction over all maritime contracts, torts, injuries, or offenses.) at its navel headquarters. This special court was responsible for enforcement of *Mvskoke Law, Rules and Regulations*, and it administered maritime justice by trial, sentenced violators, and settled civil claims.

The *Mvskoke Nation Navy* continued to operate until 1803 when the new government of the United States combined with Spain Crown diplomatically persuaded England to close her West Indies ports to all ships flying the *Mvskoke Sun* (*Mvskoke Nation's Flag*).

The Director General was captured at Hickory Ground in early June 1803 by Upper Creeks and turned over to Spanish authorities. Historians have alluded to involvement by the United States in this capture because William Augustus Bowles certainly prevented westward expansion into aboriginal *Mvskoke* homeland.

William Augustus Bowles spent the next two and a half years in Spanish custody jailed in the Morrow Castle dungeon, Havana, Cuba. His health steadily deteriorated for no apparent reason and he was transferred to San Ambrosia Military Hospital early in December 1805 where he died December 23, 1805. He was 42 years of age and had spent his entire adult life living with and fighting for the *Mvskoke*. The Spanish doctor treating him wrote in his journal, William Augustus Bowles died of a broken heart.

## ANTHONY ALLEN

BRISTOW — Funeral services for Anthony Joe “Tony” Allen were held August 30 at Mutteloke Church with Pastor Jerry Byrd officiating.

He was born to Jesse Allen and Hannah Allen on January 24, 1958 in Huntington Park, California.

Anthony attended Jones Academy and has been a resident of Bristow his entire life. He was a dedicated employee of Kwikset and worked on the assembly. Tony loved the outdoors and enjoyed working with horses.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Survivors include: four sons, Jesse of Granite, Cosena, Nathan and David, all of Tulsa; daughter, Neosha of Tulsa; mother; three brothers, Corky of Hixson, Tennessee, Robert and Byron, both of Bristow; two sisters, Poni of Norman and Adrienne of Tulsa; one granddaughter; and a host of relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Bruce and Marty Bigpond; Billy Brown; Lester Revis; Bobby Cargil and Burt Patadal.

Interment was at the Allen Family Cemetery.

## MATTHEW BERRYHILL

WETUMKA — Funeral services for Matthew Kyle “Hvtke” Berryhill were held September 15 at the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Fred Lindsey officiating.

He was born March 25, 1994 in Ada to Sheila Faye Berryhill Remis.

Matthew was raised in Wetumka and Wewoka area. He was currently attending school at Wewoka elementary and was in the fourth grade. Berryhill enjoyed going to school and loved sports. He also enjoyed riding his bike, spending time with his family and friends, going to church and listening to all kinds of music.



Berryhill

Survivors include: his mother and stepfather, Sheila

Remis and David Williams; sisters and brothers, Lacie and Austin Williams of Wewoka and Shawn and Kimberly Remis of Henryetta; grandparents, Chubby and Shirley Berryhill of Wetumka; aunts; uncles; and a host of cousins, relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Gene Berryhill; David Williams; David Lindsey; Tommy, Sam Jr. and Shawn Remis.

Interment was at the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church Cemetery.

## MARK CAMPBELL JR.

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Mark Tracey Campbell Jr. were held June 4 at the Taylor Family Cemetery with Rev. Malcolm Tiger presiding and assisted by Rev. Jim Jameson.

He was born in Garland, Texas on May 18, 1984. Mark enjoyed playing basketball and played for

his church team, New Life Baptist Church. He was in the process of organizing an All Indian Men’s Basketball team with his best friend, Sean Frazier.

Campbell lived all his life in Garland, attended Garland Public Schools and worked in the area.

He was preceded in death by his great grandparents, Charley T. and Fannie Mitchell Taylor.

Survivors include: sister, Lindsay K. Sheets of Edgewood, Tex.; three brothers, Bryan Campbell of Texarkana, Tex., Charlie of Corsicana, Tex. and Rusty Sheets of Antlers; grandmother, Lennah Daniels of Garland, Tex.; aunts; uncles; two nephews; one niece and numerous cousins and friends.

## CHARLES GRAY

ARKANSAS CITY, KAN. — A recitation of Holy Rosary for Charles Gordon Gray was held May 27 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

He was born January 18, 1938, at the Chilocco Hospital to Charles and Zelda Ann Tau-u-neacie Gray.

Charles attended grade school at Chilocco and high school in Arkansas City. He later attended the OSU— Okmulgee.

Gray married Annelore Jannek on September 6, 1975 at Joseph Catholic Church in Tonkawa. Charles worked at Struther Wells Thermo-Flood and Peabody Gordon and Platt both at Strother Field. Later, he worked for Texaco Oil Refinery in El Dorado, Kansas.

He served in the U.S. Army Reserves and was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Arkansas City, Kansas.

Charles was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include: his wife of the home; three sons, Gordon of the home, Simon and Cory, both of Arkansas City; brother, Daniel of Bartlesville; sister, Almeta Tonips of Fort Worth, Texas; and three grandchildren.

A memorial has been established with Hospice of North Central Oklahoma, c/o Hawks Funeral Home, 906 W. Kansas Avenue, Arkansas City, Kansas, 67005.

## ELIZABETH PORTER

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Elizabeth Thompson Wacoche Porter were held June 29 at Shurden Chapel with Rev. George Doyle and Rev. Mitchell Taylor officiating.

She was born February 4, 1911 in Pierce to Katie and George Thompson.

Porter was a homemaker and is known all over Creek Nation as a piano player - playing for Indian churches when needed, revivals or services.

Elizabeth was a member of Grave Creek Church in Hitchita in the capacity of Woman Leader and also woman leader at Snake Creek Church at Bixby. She also attended churches at Silver Springs, located at Tiger Mountain, Cedar Creek, Coweta, Yardeka Indian Baptist, all in the Henryetta area.

Preceding her in death was: her husbands, Rev. Willie S. Wacoche & Rev. Barney Porter; three children, Pauline McCombs, Rueben “Butch” Wacoche and Janie Wacoche; and three grandsons.

Survivors include: son, Benjamin Wacoche of Oklahoma City; daughters, Ramona Lincoln of Coweta, Jean Berryhill of Okmulgee and Ruby Gleaton of Tulsa; twenty-two grandchildren; forty-five great-grandchildren and eight great-great grandchildren; as well as a host of friends and other relatives.

Pallbearers were: Charley & Melvin Sack; Mark & Mike Berryhill; Ben Jr. and Bryan Wacoche.

Honorary pallbearers were: Ames Harjo; Rev. Jimmie Alexander; Andy Hale; Newman Thompson; Second Chief Alfred Berryhill; and Woody Wilson.

Interment was at Lackey Cemetery.

## ERNESTINE MARSHALL

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Funeral services for Ernestine Martin Marshall were held Oct. 13 at the Luyden Family Mortuary with the Rev. Matthew McCosar officiating.

She was born in Oklahoma to Salina Carr and Rev. Dave Martin of the Hitchita Indian Baptist Church on May 2, 1921.

Ernestine married Charles Marshall a WWII veteran and moved to Long Beach during the 1940’s, where she resided for more than 50 years. She was a member of Brighter Day Indian Baptist Church for many years.

Ernestine was one of the very few full blood Creeks who still lived in California. She was a board member of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association and was grandmother to all who knew her. Ernestine had a vision that all Muscogee people will know their traditions no matter where they lived. Her unabashed support for California Creek families finds no equal. Mvto Ernestine.

Preceding her in death was her husband, parents and sister, Doris Spirlock.

Survivors include: two sons, Ronald Sparks and Charles Marshall Jr., three grandchildren, Richard Sparks, Janet Sparks Feldmen and Letitia Tapia, three sisters, Alma Brown, Margaret Roberts and Annabel Cowan, six great grandchildren and one great grandchild, plus a host of other family and friends.

Interment was at Forest Lawn of Long Beach.

## Gratitude

We would like to thank all the friends and special people who have assisted in bringing her home. Just remember that smile she had for each and every one of you. Thank you and God bless you.

### Minnie L. Jeffley Spicer family

We would like to thank you for your kindness shown to our mother during her illness and our time of sorrow: Heritage Hospice Staff; Ella Cook; Cindy; Georgie; Lee; Carol; Jessie; Laverne; Chebon; Adam; David Dunson; Leona Zink; Daphne Baker; Thlophlocco Church; Springfield Church; Rev. Jerry Byrd; Kelly Tiger; Allen Yargee; Gary Dunson; Lori Robinson and Salt Creek UMC. May God bless each and every one of you.

During a time like this we realize how much our friends mean to us. Your kind expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

### Minnie Johnson family



# Gathering of Hearts and Native American Arts to benefit organizations that affect Native Americans

TULSA — Native American art lovers will get the chance to view some of their favorite local artists' work and help a charity at the Gathering of Hearts and Native American Arts show on Nov. 19 through 21 at the Marriott Southern Hills Hotel located at 71st and Lewis.

Yankton Sioux artist Joe Chamberlain is putting together the show. Part of the proceeds from the show will benefit the following three hand-picked organizations: American Indian and Minority Health Incorporated, American Diabetes Association, and the Domestic Violence Intervention Service Incorporated. "I wanted to pick organizations that affect Native Americans," stated Chamberlain.

A host of Native American artists will be featured during the three day show. Artists on the bill include: Joe Chamberlain, Merlin Little Thunder, Dana Tiger, Victoria Mason, Niles Bosin, Juanita Hermanns, Gina Smith, Judy Cosar, Mary Howard, Gary Montgomery, Mike Daniel, Mel Cornshucker, Matthew Bearden, Jon Tiger, Lloyd D. Harjo, Crow Jr., Sonny Crow, Jane Osti, Daniel McCoy, Jr., Wilma Whitaker, Tennyson Reid, Warren Walkingstick, Margie Fuhrman, Michael D. Loman, Merle Big Medicine, Richard Beaver, Ruben Cully, Joe Don Brave and Bill McCulley.

Several of the featured artists are Creek citizens. Local Creek figurative artist, Mary Howard, paints in acrylics. She has a few years

of formal training in graphic design, but decided to return to her first love, fine art.

Her subject matter consists of her life experiences and heritage. She enjoys painting the animals that represent her tribe's clans. She also takes great pleasure in painting children with their uncompromising innocence. Her true passion is creating a timeless depiction of feminine sensuality and inner strength within her portraits of women.

Howard had her first one women show in 2003 at the Artistic Indulgence Gallery in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her show was sponsored by Target as part of the event *Art On The Town* in which 86 galleries were showcased. One of her paintings, *Morning Visitor*, was featured in the periodical, *Art & Antiques* under Market Focus in the October, 2003 issue. Howard currently resides in Okmulgee.

Richard Beaver, member of the Wind clan, has been painting since he was 12 years old. His stepfather Lee Joshua, a well-known Creek Artist, encouraged Beaver to continue his education and develop his own style in art and obtain the necessary strength within yourself. Beaver explained his belief about the talent of art. "I believe in doing Native art, which is a gift from the Great Creator. With this gift that each native artist has, no one can take that from them."

Beaver had a few words to say about the upcoming art show in Tulsa. "Gathering of Hearts and Native American Arts show is a great event that can help local artist exhibit and sale their art work. Some local artist can't afford booth fee's to enter their art at some shows. I believe this will help

them and myself in showing art and meeting people."

Beaver's artistic efforts have been used towards teaching native youth to utilize their talents during youth camps and other events. He has also donated art for miscellaneous Creek Nation and community events to use for material design with t-shirts, signs, posters and more.

Howard also commented on the importance

of the show. "Not only is it a venue to sell my art, it also offers an opportunity for me to give something back. The organizations that the Gathering of Hearts and Native American Art show benefits are very substantial and I have either been directly or indirectly affected through my family and friends by the issues these



2003 art show artists and displays



Howard exhibits her acrylic paintings during show.



Mary Howard demonstrates the art of acrylic painting at her exhibit booth.



Richard Beaver painting

programs focus on."

Creek art has been around since the beginning of Creek existence and has been passed down throughout several generations, revealing stories, culture, history, events and more. Creek art comes in many different styles and techniques, demonstrating moods, emotions and motivation.

The artists' reception will be open to the public and is slated for Friday, Nov. 19 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The show will continue on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and end on Sunday with a showing time of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Catering opportunities to meet the artists and organizations representatives will be provided at the receptions as well. Open exhibits will be Friday evening for those wanting to arrive early and get the first look at the various pieces of native art.

Creek citizens are encouraged to attend the upcoming art show and visit local artist exhibits in efforts of supporting area Creek artists. For more information, contact Joe Chamberlain at (918) 902-0207.



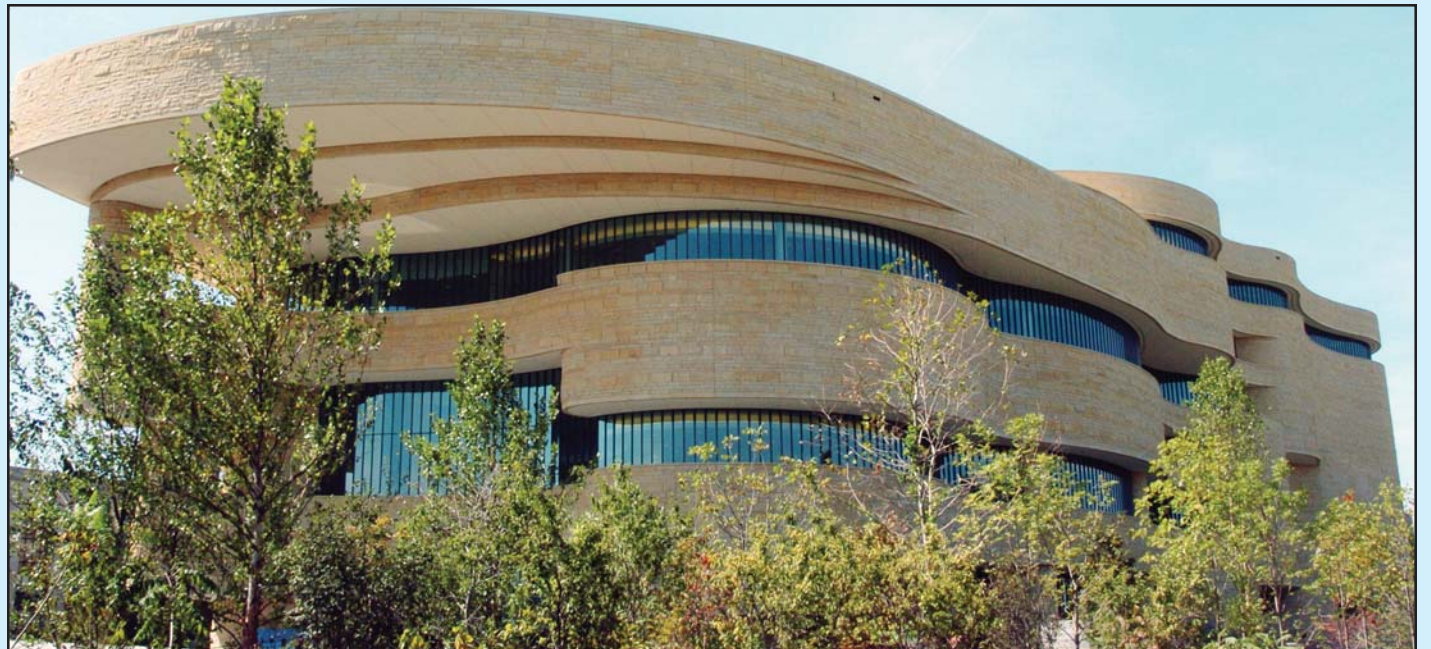


# National Museum of the American Indian

## Grand Opening Sept. 21, 2004

*"On behalf of the Smithsonian Institution and the Museum, I want to thank you from the bottom of my hearts for honoring us with your presence on this very special day in the fall equinox season in September 2004. Today Native Americans take their rightful place on the National Mall of the very shadow of the Nation Capital building itself. That act establishes a powerful physical, cultural, and spiritual market for the agents in recognition of the First Citizens of the Americans."* — **Richard West , Director of the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian**

*"This new museum visually stunning inside and out, is a beautiful blend of old and new, nature and technology, symbolism and significant, it's a living tribute to the first Americans. Yet this museum is much more than a celebration of the past its on going living testimony to the fatality of native cultures, a fatality that is vibrantly on display here today and will continue. Our first American festival which is six days celebration of music, song, dance, and story telling produced by the National Museum of American Indian and the Smithsonian Center for Folk Life and Cultural Heritage. The celebration begins immediately after the ceremonies, so our newest museum not only recognizes a cultural legacy of 1000 years, but also today diversity of native people theirs thoughts, wisdom, arts, and knowledge. Visitors will come here to experience the past understanding of their living history, a history they will write. The museum would not be here without the help from around the world."* — **Secretary of the Smithsonian Museum**



National Museum of The American Indian



Esther Grona, right, helped represent the Creek tribal senior citizens



Chief A. D. Ellis and Wife, Gail Ellis

***All photos courtesy of Ted Isham and MNN staff.***



Creek District Representative Roger Barnett





Muscogee Creek Royalty



Muscogee Creek Honor Guard



Muscogee Creek Nation Chief A.D. Ellis and council representatives



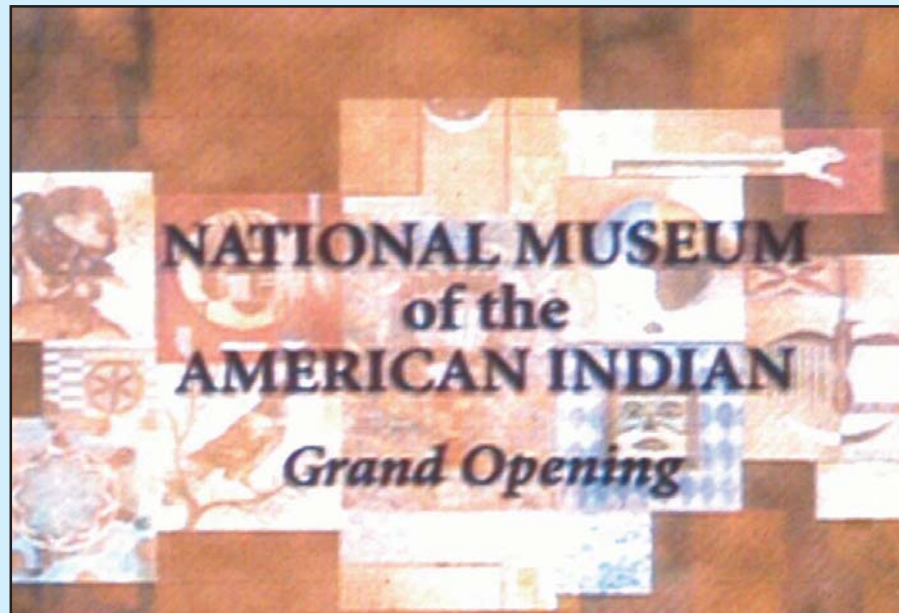
Muscogee Creek Citizen Lizzy Bruner



Council representatives Bill Jones, left, and Jesse Kelley stand proudly with the Creek Nation Royalty.



Creek District Representative Roger Barnett along with Creek Citizens Stephanie Harry and Kristie Harjo



September 21st, 2004



Glenpool Public School



Council representatives along with other Muscogee tribal members



NMAI Procession on the Mall, Tallahassee Wakokaye Ceremonial Ground and George Coser, Arbeka Ceremonial Ground



Poet, singer, song writer Joy Harjo of Hawaii and Eli Grayson California Muscogee Creek Assoc. of L.A. pose for pictures



Muscogee Royalty wave to those celebrating the opening



Displaying traditional wear



# A Celebration of 1000 years of culture

